

MacAddict

A BETTER MACHINE. A BETTER MAC.

**SPECIAL
REPORT:**

Our experts
show you how
to master the
***MOST POWERFUL
MAC OS X EVER***

**WIN!**
Olympus
Evolt E-300
SLR

TAMING X TIGER

**15 PAGES
OF EXPERT
INFO!**

SPOTLIGHT **DASHBOARD** **AUTOMATOR** **SAFARI RSS** **iCHAT AV** **DICTIONARY** **FONT BOOK** **QUICKTIME 7** **.MAC SYNC** **REVIEWED:**

→ OLYMPUS STYLUS VERVE
→ Final Cut Express HD
→ CanoScan LiDE 500F
→ Drive Genius . . . and 20 more

**HOW TO:**

→ Create a Dashboard Widget
→ Hypercustomize iChat
→ Protect Your Home Network
→ Exploit Photoshop Elements



\$7.99US \$9.99CAN

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Future
MEDIA WITH PASSION

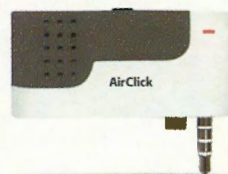
Clicks well with others

\$39⁹⁹



AirClick Remote Control for iPod

- Control your iPod, iPod mini, or computer from up to 60 feet away
- Uses RF signals that travel through walls for remote control use anywhere in the house
- Tiny remote attaches to backpack, bike, steering wheel - anywhere for on-the-go control



\$39⁹⁹



iTalk iPod Voice Recorder

- Internal microphone and laptop quality speaker
- Connect external microphone or headphones
- Passthrough jack for headphones or additional speaker
- Automatic level control for perfect recordings



\$14⁹⁹

Lapel Mic Multipurpose Stereo Microphone

- Self-powered microphone with stereo-quality sound
- Swivel clip for easy attachment
- Connects directly to iTalk, iMic, or PowerWave



\$35



iTrip FM Transmitter for iPod

- The only FM Transmitter designed exclusively for the iPod & iPod mini
- Powered from the iPod - no batteries necessary
- Choose any empty station from 87.7 to 107.9, and change your iTrip stations directly from the iPod



\$19⁹⁹



TuneJuice Battery Backup for iPod and iPod mini

- Provides up to 8 hours of additional power to iPod
- Uses any disposable or rechargeable 9-volt battery
- Carry emergency iPod power wherever you go
- Works with any dockable iPod or iPod mini



\$29⁹⁹

iVault

Aluminum Case for iPod shuffle

- Elegant, protective enclosure for iPod shuffle
- Available in Silver, Purple, Blue and Red
- Four screws ensure that your iPod shuffle is completely secure and only comes out of the iVault when you want it to
- Includes 36" USB cable for connectivity while your iPod shuffle is protected



\$69⁹⁹

radioSHARK

AM/FM Radio with time-shift recording

- AM/FM radio for your Mac or PC
- Record your favorite programs while you listen or schedule recordings for later
- Easily transfer recordings to iTunes
- Pause and resume live radio or scroll back in time and record



\$39⁹⁹

iMic

USB Audio Interface

- Adds stereo audio inputs and outputs to any USB equipped Mac or PC
- Includes everything needed to record albums and tapes to make MP3s and CDs
- Plug-and-Play simple, no install required



\$79⁹⁹



RoadTrip

FM Transmitter, Charger, and Cradle

- Power and charge an iPod or iPod mini from any 12-volt cigarette lighter
- RoadTrip transmitter module works separately as an FM transmitter for your home computer
- Transmits on a full range of frequencies from 88.1 to 107.9



\$45

PowerMate

USB Multimedia Controller Knob

- Eliminates repetitive keystrokes
- Great control for iTunes, iMovie, and GarageBand
- Programmable for any application
- Now in Brushed Aluminum and Black



\$39⁹⁹

SightLight

FireWire Light for iSight

- Custom-designed Fresnel-based lens diffuses light to even out shadows
- Auto setting automatically senses the amount of ambient room light and adjusts its output accordingly
- Shares the iSight's FireWire connection



\$14⁹⁹

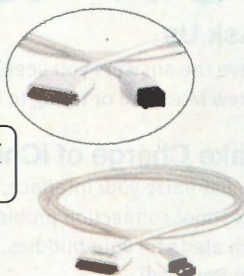
\$19⁹⁹



Dock400 & Dock800

Dock Cables for iPod

- Take advantage of the FireWire 800 or FireWire 400 port on your computer – no more unplugging another device to sync your iPod
- Charges and syncs your iPod or iPod mini
- Connects to iPod or iPod Dock

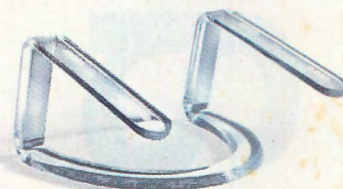


\$39⁹⁹

iCurve

Invisible Laptop Stand

- Keeps laptop cool with maximum air circulation
- Raises laptop screen to the perfect height and creates room on the desktop for an external keyboard and mouse
- Fits all Apple PowerBooks and iBooks



MacAddict

features

12 Taming Tiger

We test the limits and discover the hidden powers of Spotlight, Dashboard, and all the other features of Mac OS 10.4.

by **Niko Coucouvanis**,
Roman Loyola, and **Rik Myslewski**



28 Search Party

Google's great, but why not explore some specialized search engines for shopping, travel, research, and more?

by **Robert Strohmeier**

how to

52 Ask Us

We have the answers you seek, whether you're wondering how to use an old monitor with your new Mac mini or trying to teach your Mac and PC to get along.

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Once you find out what Photoshop's little brother can do, you may kick yourself for buying Photoshop CS.

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by **Alex Handy**

Cover image by **Oliver Wolfson**

every month

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The Apple Stores are grand, but are mom-and-pop Mac shops a dying breed? Find out what they can do that Apple Stores can't. Plus: Mac podcasts, Tiger-training books, and more.

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QUICK TIPS

FROM THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

➔ DITCH DASHBOARD

If you unlock Dashboard's Developer mode, you can run a widget in the Finder. From "Create a Dashboard Widget," p56.

➔ I WANT MY HDTV

How can you watch your HD video if you can't yet make an HD DVD? Record HD movies back to your camera's tape, attach the camera to your HD telly, and roll. From *Reviews*, p32.

➔ FREEBIE@MAC.COM

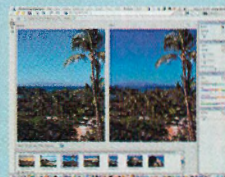
If you sign up for a free .Mac trial, the you@mac.com iChat handle is yours to keep even after the trial ends.

From "Take Charge of iChat," p54.



➔ EASE INTO ELEMENTS

You probably don't need all of Photoshop CS2's pro features. Buy Elements instead, and spend the cash you save on an acre of RAM. Or send it to us. From "Ease into Elements," p59.



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We'd spend our own hard-earned money on these products.

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78 Letters

One reader opens up a Mac museum; another turns to Apple to build a better mousetrap.

79 Contest

Harness your hilariousness and win yourself an Olympus Evolt E-300 digital SLR!

80 Shut Down

What happens when there's a breakdown in the corporate-communication chain?

the disc

Widget addiction is afflicting Tiger adopters everywhere, and we've got the cure: 23 nifty little widgets to crowd your Dashboard bar. You'll also find four fun games, a gang of great graphics apps, and a whole lot more on this month's Disc.

Massive Assault demo

In this strategy game, warfare after World War III is bloody, tense, and a whole lot of nail-biting fun.



Photo to Movie demo

Sure, iPhoto's got great slideshows and iMovie's got Ken Burns on staff—but this app can do much, much more.



Drive Genius demo

Repair, defragmentation, duplication, and more—this burly drive utility will keep your Mac's drives running right.



AUDIO & MUSIC

Peak LE 4.1.3 trial
SoundSoap 2 demo video
WireTap Pro 1.0.1 shareware

DASHBOARD

Bloglines Notifier 1.0 freeware
Capture 0.7.5 freeware
Creatures in My Head 1.1 freeware
DaisyTracker 1.0 freeware
Flores 1.1 freeware
Hula Girl 2.1 freeware
JIWire WiFi Hotspot Finder 1.0 freeware
MacAddict Faux Fire freeware
MAYA Cards 1.0 freeware
Memory 1.0 freeware
Meteo 0.2 freeware
miniDropper 0.9 freeware
miniOandX 0.9 freeware
miniPatience 0.9 freeware
Package Tracker 2.0 freeware
Penny Arcade Comic-Viewing Widget 1.3 freeware
Picker 1.1 freeware
SlothCam 1.1 freeware
Snake 0.9 freeware

tailDash 1.5 freeware
TV Tracker 1.0 freeware
VelaClock 1.0 demo
WikityWidget 1.1 shareware

DEVELOPMENT

REALbasic 5.5.5 demo
FUN & GAMES
Geneforge 3 shareware
Massive Assault 2.0 demo
Killi Monty 1.0.2 shareware
Tribal Trouble 1.0 demo

GRAPHICS & MULTIMEDIA

Cheetah3D 2.2b2 beta
iFlicks 1.1 shareware

iMaginator 1.0.1 shareware

Photo to Movie 3.2.2 demo
Picture Rescue 1.1.0 trial

INTERFACE

DragThing 5.6 shareware

INTERNET & COMMUNICATION

HTML-Optimizer X 9.1 shareware
JIWire Portable Hotspot Locator 1.0 freeware
Ovolab Phlink 2.1 demo
pagesender 3.4 shareware
Picture Patrol 9 1.5 shareware
Picture Patrol X 1.5 shareware

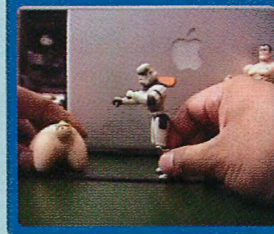
PRODUCTIVITY
Mariner Write 3.6.5 demo

UTILITIES

ChronoSync 3.0.1 shareware
DiskTracker (Classic) 2.3
DiskTracker (OS X) 2.3
Drive Genius 1.1.1 demo
Fink 0.7.1 freeware
FinkCommander 0.5.3 freeware

SPONSORS

JIWire Portable Hotspot Locator 1.0 freeware
Peak LE 4.1.3 trial
Picture Rescue 1.1.0 trial
SoundSoap 2 demo video



Staff Video: We Fought the Law, and...

We spared no expense to bring you the gripping tale of Reviews Editor Roman Loyola's failed attempt to videotape San Francisco's Tiger-release party.

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Tasty
TIG

MacAddict

EDITORIAL

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The Future Network plc is a public company quoted on the London Stock Exchange (symbol: FNETI).

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REPRINTS: For reprints, contact Ryan Derfler, Reprint Operations Specialist, 717.399.1900 ext. 167
or email: futurenetworkusa@reprintbuyer.com

SUBSCRIPTION QUERIES: Please email mcddcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com or call customer service toll-free at 888-771-6222.

Volume 10, Issue 7

MacAddict (ISSN 1088-548X) is published monthly by Future Network USA, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005, USA. Periodical-class postage paid at Brisbane, CA, and at additional mailing offices. Newsstand distribution is handled by Curtis Circulation Co. Basic subscription rates: one year (12 issues + 12 CD-ROMs) \$39.90, Canada \$43.95, U.S. prepaid funds only. Canadian price includes postage and GST 128220688. IPM 0962392. Outside the U.S. and Canada, price is \$53.95, U.S. prepaid funds only. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to MacAddict, P.O. Box 5126, Harlan, IA 51593-0626. Future Network USA also publishes Maximum PC, Mobile, PC Gamer, Official Xbox Magazine, PSM, Guitar World, Guitar One, Guitar World Acoustic, Bass Guitar, Guitar Legends, Future Music, Future Snowboarding, Snowboard Journal, Snowboard Trade News, Skateboard Trade News, and Scrapbook Answers. Entire contents copyright 2005, Future Network USA. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited. Future Network USA is not affiliated with the companies or products covered in MacAddict. Risk-Along enclosure in the following edition(s): A2, B1, B2. PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Publications Mail Agreement #40043831. Returns: 4960-2 Walker Road, Windsor ON N9A 6J3.

A History of Ingenuity



Innovation has been the name of Apple's game for nearly 30 years. And although Apple's hardware has consistently led the personal-computing world in quality and style, it's the Mac's operating systems that have brought the most important advances to the world of personal computing (see "Taming Tiger," p12). That said, while many of the OS breakthroughs have been of "How did we live without these?" caliber, some have been deservedly consigned to the dustbin of history.

Such as...

HOW DID WE LIVE WITHOUT THESE?

- **Hierarchical File System (1986)** Before HFS was introduced in System 3.0, you couldn't nest folders inside of other folders. Try to picture navigating through your files if that were the case today.
- **Progress Bar (1987)** Originally, when you copied a file, folder, or disk, you simply had to guess how long that process would take. Then the Progress Bar appeared in System 4.2 to assure you that, yes, it really was taking that long.
- **Multitasking (1987)** Today we all keep multiple applications running simultaneously, thanks to Mac OS X's finely tuned preemptive multitasking. System 4.2's MultiFinder introduced the less-capable, but still mighty welcome, cooperative multitasking, and we all became far more productive.

DUSTBIN OF HISTORY

- **A/UX (1988)** Mac OS X wasn't the first Unix-based Mac operating system—that honor goes to A/UX, which petered out in 1995, having never made much of a splash in the first place.
- **Interapplication Communication (1993)** If you never could get this method of sharing information among different applications working consistently and correctly, you weren't alone.
- **OpenDoc (1996)** Even though Apple, IBM, Novell, Borland, and Lotus all supported this "document-centric" technology, it lived a short and tortured life because application developers needed to completely rethink the way they wrote and distributed apps—and figure out a way to make money while doing so.

The list, of course, goes on. And on. And only time will tell which of Tiger's innovations will become indispensable and which will become mere footnotes in the history of the world's greatest personal computer.

Enjoy,

R.k

coming soon: august 2005

Here's what our editors are preparing for the next issue of *MacAddict*.

Got bugs? Who doesn't? In our **fifth-annual bug hunt**, we'll identify some of the most threatening species and show you how to exterminate them from your Mac. Remember that **blogging** story we promised for this month? Tiger devoured it—but it'll be back next month, along with a Field Guide explaining **little-known startup codes and key combinations**. We'll also take the mystery out of **iPhoto slideshows**, create a **backup system** with AppleScript and a FireWire hard drive, build a **homebrew Steadicam rig** to stabilize shaky video footage, and delve into the powers of **Automator**. We'll also have reviews of Adobe's **InDesign CS2** and **Photoshop CS2**, Wacom's **Cintiq 21UX**, Apple's new **dual 2.7GHz Power Mac**, and more.

STAFF RANTS

Q. What innovation most changed the way you work with your Mac?



Niko Coucouvanis CAPTAIN JERK

What innovation most changed the way you work with your Mac?

It was the modem. At first I avoided them as toys for Star Trek geeks and calculator programmers, but when they hit 14.4 Kbps I finally got one—and I haven't gotten much work done since.



Sean Molloy CLUTTER-MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

What innovation most changed the way you work with your Mac?

Thanks to the desktop-clearing capabilities of Exposé, days will pass before I realize that I've got 147 applications open. Now if only they made something like that for my real desk.



Jake Widman DISKTOP JOCKEY

What innovation most changed the way you work with your Mac?

That whole folders-and-desktop thing. Remember before that, when your workspace was called The Floor, and you'd just throw things anywhere, and every so often the Media Operating Module (MOM) would come along to put things away and you wouldn't know where they were? That was such a drag.



Roman Loyola FALSE STARTER

What innovation most changed the way you work with your Mac?

The first-generation Power Macs made a terrifying car crash sound instead of the startup chime if something was amiss at boot. To this day, when I turn on my Mac, I'm a bit anxious until I hear that pleasing, familiar startup chime—only then can I relax.



Peter Marshutz SITTING BY THE DOCK OF THE BAY

What innovation most changed the way you work with your Mac?

I love the Dock, it really makes navigating around my Mac easy: switching applications; bouncing between documents, Web pages, anything—it's great.



Mark Rosenthal SLO POKE

What innovation most changed the way you work with your Mac?

Before cooperative multitasking, I couldn't see the big deal about having multiple applications running at the same time. Looking back, I bet I spent two hours of my workday just opening and closing apps!



Max BACKING UP INTO THE FUTURE

What innovation most changed the way you work with your Mac?

When System 1.1 was released on May 5, 1984, it improved the interminable floppy-copy speed—or lack thereof—that plagued the original System 1.0. The fix would have been released sooner, but rumor had it that Apple's system-software programmers wasted multiple man-years backing up their work on 400KB floppies in System 1.0.

Apple's chain of stores continues to grow, but there are still reasons to visit an independent Mac store.

Step into one of Apple's gleaming stores, and you may think you've died and gone to heaven—one populated with seemingly infinite iPods, multitudinous Mac minis, in-store workshops, and a crack team of Mac Geniuses that dispense free advice.

Apple's retail strategy appears to be paying off—literally. In a recent quarterly report, Apple claimed that its retail stores raked in a \$45 million profit during the first quarter of 2005, up from just \$9 million a year ago. But not everyone is celebrating. Many Apple resellers are screaming that Apple just isn't playing fair.

In the knock-down-drag-out battle between Apple and independent resellers, do mom-and-pop shops stand a fighting chance? And where do you, as a Mac user, stand to get the best deals and service?

New Apple gear. Not surprisingly, Apple retail stores are your best bet for scoring the latest and greatest Apple products. Apple stocks its own stores first before sending shipments (often in short supply) to its resellers. Apple Stores also play hardball when it comes to price; find any Apple-branded hardware or software at a reseller for a lower price, and Apple will match that price (though only up to 10 percent below the current Apple Store price).

A few individual resellers claim that these practices are anticompetitive; some resellers are taking Apple to court to level the playing field. Former Apple reseller Tom Santos is among them. Santos, the owner of the recently shut-down MacAdam store in San Francisco, filed a lawsuit accusing Apple of a laundry list of anticompetitive tactics,



PHOTOGRAPH BY SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

MOM 'n' POP AND APPLE

including poor or no allocation of products, pawning off used computers as new ones, consistent improper billing and overbilling for repairs, and undercutting its resellers in price wars.

"When Apple opened its stores, it said, 'We're going to support you,'" says Santos. "What a bunch of crap—a bunch of lies designed to keep us around until they don't need us anymore."

Other resellers agree. Elite Computers & Software founder Thomas Armes, who recently had to close all five of his stores (which brought in \$20 million in sales in 2002), also has a suit against Apple citing unfair business practices. And in mid-February 2005, three California consumers and two former Apple resellers joined forces to file a

class-action suit against Apple. The suit echoes many of Santos's and Armes's complaints; it also accuses Apple of directly marketing to the resellers' private customer lists.

Non-Apple stuff. Apple may hoard its newest products for its own stores, but resellers often have a greater supply and

JOIN THE iSCENE

Recently, the *New York Post* and *City Magazine* ran stories about the hipsters and singles scene at the SoHo Apple Store in New York City. *Wired News* (www.wired.com) wrote about Hollywood celebrities who visit Apple Stores. The vibe's different at your locally owned Mac store—it's

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF APPLE



Lines like this one at the Chicago Apple Store are common with big store events, such as the Tiger release.

big deals. They're just branding stores with the basic \$8-an-hour employee."

Service and help.

If you need a quickie memory upgrade, don't know how to reset your iPod, or can't figure out why your Mac won't work, then sidle on up to the Genius Bar at the Apple Store for a free face-to-face consultation. Depending on the store, you may be in for a wait. The line at the flagship San Francisco Apple Store is often several hours long. The impatient can make a same-day appointment to avoid lines, while the really impatient can buy into Apple's \$99



PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHELLE VICTORIA

One of San Francisco's last independent Mac stores, MacAdam, closed its doors earlier this year.

ProCare plan, which lets you reserve a Genius up to seven days in advance.

If you have a serious problem, though, you're better off heading directly to your local Apple reseller instead of an Apple Store. Why? Most Apple Stores aren't full-service centers, which means they can only make the most minimal repairs on-site; everything else is sent out for repair, which could take days, if not weeks. At the L.A. Computer Company, technicians do all the work on-site and can often make repairs while you wait.

Lou Dunham, one of the owners of Bethesda-based MacUpgrades, says he has a great relationship with the Apple mini store that opened up a block away from his own store last December. "We've referred customers to them for products that we can't get, and they refer customers to us for products that they no longer service or for on-site service, which they don't provide," says Dunham. "We've exchanged a lot of business with the Apple Store, and I'm really happy with them."—Nikki Echler McDonald

variety of third-party products such as digital cameras, scanners, and printers, as well as older Mac products you won't find in an Apple Store. Need a wireless card for your old G3? An ergonomic keyboard and mouse? A five-megapixel digital camera? There's a good chance that you'll have more luck finding it at an independent reseller.

If you're making a big purchase, an independent Apple reseller is more likely to cut you a deal in hopes of getting you hooked on service. "We make deals easier," says Yunus Motiwalla, operations manager of the Anaheim, CA-based L.A. Computer Company. "The Apple Store isn't geared to help dedicated buyers looking to make

usually more community oriented, down to earth, and laid back. Chances are you'll find members of your local Mac-users' group patronizing the store.—Michelle Victoria



Hey, Mac, come here often?

NEW STUFF

► PRINTER PAL Epson PictureMate Deluxe Viewer Edition \$249

www.epson.com

Available: June

To print on this portable photo printer, just insert your camera's memory card. You can preview your images on the 2.4-inch LCD and adjust brightness, saturation, sharpness, cropping, and more. A battery is available for \$69.99.

Keep your photo lab close at hand.



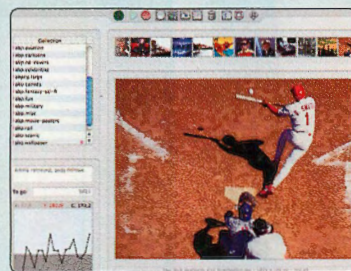
IMAGE COURTESY OF EPSON

► USE USENET PICS Brainchild Picture Patrol 1.5 \$19

www.brainchild.nl

Available: Now

This app can search through Usenet newsgroups for downloadable pictures. You can read newsgroup articles, decode the attached pictures, and save the images to your hard disk.



Stop the JPEG gibberish.

► COMFORTABLE GLISSANDO Edirol PC-80 \$495

www.edirol.com

Available: Now

This USB MIDI controller has felt-cushioned and spring-loaded keys; 24-bit, 96kHz audio capability; low-latency driver support for Core Audio, WDM, ASIO 2.0 and OS standard drivers; and stereo powered speakers (2 watts each).

61 ebones and ivories to tickle.



IMAGE COURTESY OF EDIROL



DROOLWORTHY

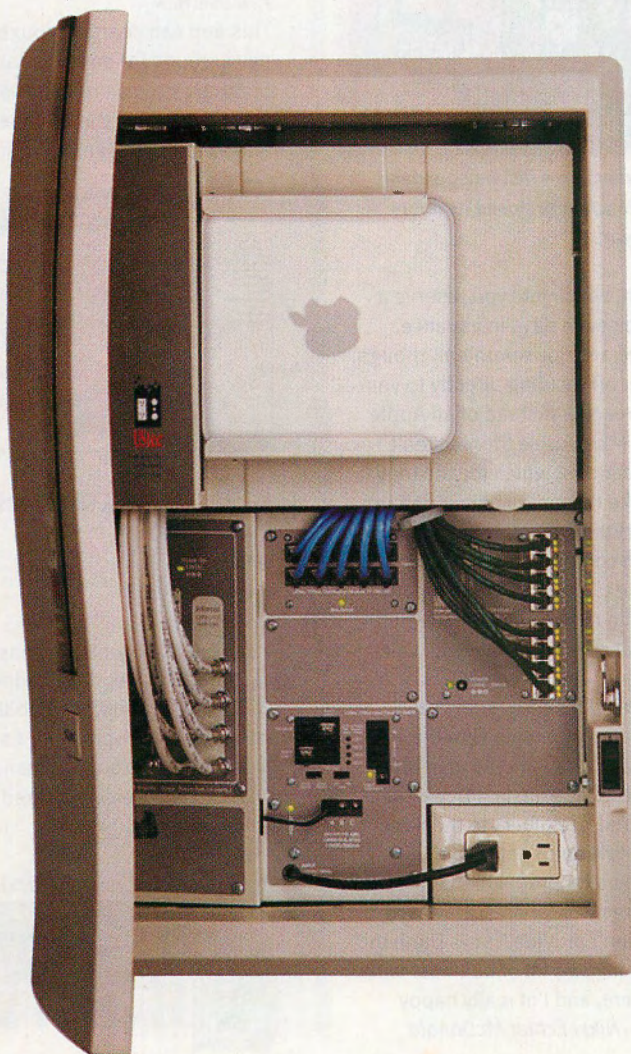
Sexy Stuff We Can't Wait to Get Our Mitts On

Pa Rum Pum-Pum Pum →

The 16 velocity-sensitive pads on M-Audio's **Trigger Finger** (\$249, www.m-audio.com) are designed for playing drum sounds, but you can generate any MIDI triggers you wish. The eight knobs and four faders can be assigned to MIDI parameters such as volume, pan, pitch, and effects. Trigger Finger also has preprogrammed maps for Reason, Live, GM Drum, XG Drum, and iDrum.



IMAGE COURTESY OF M-AUDIO



← To Serve and Protect

If you're planning on using your Mac mini as a server, it should feel nice and comfy inside USTec's **iLAN** (price to be determined, www.ustecnet.com), a cabinet that includes cables, ports, and a 10/100Base-T Ethernet switch and router. You can customize the cabinet to include a security-camera system, satellite-TV multiswitch, and broadband amplifier to boost your cable-TV quality.

IMAGE COURTESY OF USTEC

NOW IT'S PERSONAL

Blizzard recently gave players of its popular massively multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG) **World of Warcraft** a reason to engage in player-versus-player (PvP) combat with Honor Points and Rewards—next, they plan on taking PvP to the next level with Battlegrounds, a sort of up-close-and-personal version of Warcraft III that pits Horde against Alliance in special areas of the world. The goal: Slay the enemy's general and destroy its headquarters. There are several ways to achieve victory: You can lay siege to guard towers, graveyards, and



Same old World of Warcraft. Hot new player-versus-player action.

minor villages to control more of the map; you can also capture mines to gather resources for your fellow players. After killing an enemy player, you can loot the corpse for a

token and give it to your team's master magic user. When you've handed over enough tribute, the spellcaster will summon a huge epic figure to smash your opponents.—*Matt Osborn*

World of Warcraft

Price	\$49.99 (plus monthly fee)
Available	Now
Blizzard Entertainment www.blizzard.com	



ON THE DISC
Tribal Trouble

Tribal Trouble

Price	\$24.95
Available	Now
Oddlabs www.oddlabs.com/ tribaltrouble.php	

NO REST FOR THE NATIVES

► In Oddlabs' new real-time strategy game, **Tribal Trouble**, hapless Vikings stumble upon a tropical island and plan to conquer the noble natives who call it home. And what a home it is! Randomly generated terrain means no more repeating the same old boring maps over and over again as you traverse the 3D-RTS terrain. Gather resources, build buildings, train warriors, and create a powerful chieftain to eliminate your foes.—*MO*

TIP

ZAP! Play as the native chieftain, and you can fry foes with lightning.



CSI: Dark Motives

Price	TBD
Available	July
Aspyr Media www.aspyr.com	

Alrighty then, Dr. Autopsy—dig in.

INVESTIGATE THE CORE

► Aspyr is putting you back in the shoes of characters from *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* for more zany forensic fun. **CSI: Dark Motives** is a first-person adventure that tests your nerves and skills as you examine crime scenes, question witnesses, and analyze evidence with high-tech equipment. Expect the same voices and graphic situations as in the television show, but be forewarned: It might be a crime to eat dinner while you play.—*MO*

TIPS & TRICKS: STAR WARS BATTLEFRONT

These tips will keep you from being a nerf herder in **Star Wars Battlefront**.—*MO*

OWN SOLO Play the single-player game to get acquainted with all of the maps and classes in each faction. Find a class that fits your playing style—but be flexible. If your team has too many troopers, be a pilot instead. Pilots can dish out health and ammo; they can also repair vehicles and turrets.

STAY ON TARGET Starfighters are hard to control, so fly slowly. Jedi Starfighters, X-Wings, and TIE Bombers have rockets with lock-on capabilities that help targeting.

ABUSE THE FORCE It's easiest to kill a Jedi hero while on the planet Tatooine. Just hop on a speeder bike and push the Jedi into the Sarlacc's maw. (Duh.)

FIGHT THE SMALL FIGHT On the Profile Select screen, create a new profile named Jub Jub. When you enter a game, everyone will be Ewok-sized. Now you can take out all your *Return of the Jedi* frustrations.



Aren't you a little short for a Stormtrooper?

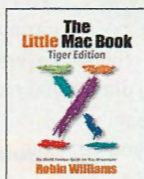
BookReviews

YOUR GUIDES TO TIGER

What comes with every copy of Apple's newest version of Mac OS X, Tiger? Questions! You'll want a good Tiger book on hand when you're digging into OS 10.4's many new features. Here are a few references to check out.—Michelle Victoria

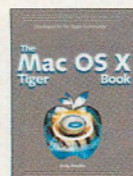
THE LITTLE MAC BOOK, TIGER EDITION

by Robin Williams
(Peachpit, \$14.99)
www.peachpit.com
Robin makes even the most complicated subjects easy to understand.



MAC OS X TIGER POCKET GUIDE

by Chuck Toporek
(O'Reilly, \$9.95)
www.oreilly.com
O'Reilly's pocket guides are compact, succinct, and invaluable.



THE MAC OS X TIGER BOOK

by Andy Ihnatko
(Wiley, \$24.99)
www.wiley.com
If it's written by Andy, it's a fun read packed with useful information.



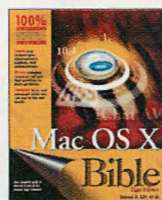
MASTERING MAC OS X V10.4 TIGER

by Todd Stauffer and Kirk McElhearn
(Sybex, \$39.99)
www.sybex.com

Looking for extensive troubleshooting and maintenance help? Here 'tis.

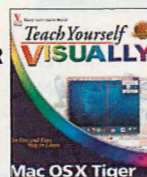
MAC OS X BIBLE, TIGER EDITION

by Samuel Litt et al.
(Wiley, \$29.99)
www.wiley.com
A longtime favorite among Mac devotees.



TEACH YOURSELF VISUALLY MAC OS X TIGER

by Erick Tejkowski
(Wiley, \$24.99)
www.wiley.com
When words are overwhelming, turn to this visual guide.



Bug of the Month

RAM-SLOT FAILURES

A well-traveled PowerBook or iBook takes a lot of abuse—enough that your RAM modules may one day work themselves loose. This odd phenomenon can even affect deskbound Macs. You may not even know you've lost useable RAM until you check About This Mac (in the Finder, Apple Menu > About This Mac) to see how much RAM you have, or when some of your apps ... run ... painfully ... slowly. Here are some possible fixes.

OBSERVE PROPER SEATING Chances are that your RAM is simply seated improperly. Remove the module and reinstall it. Make sure the connection is tight.

ROTATE YOUR RAM Try switching your memory modules around. Move RAM in upper slots to lower slots and vice versa.

TEST YOUR LOGIC Dig up Apple's Hardware Test CD (it comes with all Macs, so you probably have it somewhere) and run its memory-diagnostic test. If you get an error message that reads "post/0/2048 SODIMM0/J25LOWER," you may have a faulty logic board. Apple will give you a new logic board if your 'Book is still under warranty. If your 'Book is out of warranty, you can find replacement boards at PowerBook Medic (www.powerbookmedic.com) and PBParts.com (www.pbparts.com).



Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh

What's New

PRODUCTIVITY

If you're in the market for a new PDA, palmOne unleashed the **Tungsten E2** (\$249, www.palmone.com), which has a 320-by-320-pixel color LCD, 32MB of nonvolatile flash memory, built-in Bluetooth, and longer battery life than the Tungsten E. Econ Technologies' **ChronoSync 3.0** (\$30, www.econtechnologies.com) lets you sync files and folders from one disk location to another. The new version comes with a revamped interface, new synchronization features, and much more.



palmOne's second-generation E.

Jumsoft released **Keynote Animations 3.0** (\$45, www.jumsoft.com), a collection of 100

animated objects for Apple's Keynote and Pages. The collection includes animated illustrations for business, science, education, engineering, and law. Mariner Software shipped **Mariner Write 3.6.5** (\$59.95, www.marinersoftware.com), which has new AppleScript features, an improved Find, and several software fixes. SmileOnMyMac's **pagesender 3.4** (\$29.95, www.smileonmymac.com) has some minor bug fixes and several new features, including the abilities to sort fax history chronologically and pause and resume faxing.

Bare Bones Software announced **PunchOut** (\$149, www.barebones.com), a backup application for Mac OS 10.4 (Tiger). PunchOut uses OS 10.4's Spotlight to analyze stored data for backup and has a Dashboard widget that monitors your backup. TLA Systems announced **DragThing 5.6** (\$29, www.dragthing.com), an alternative to the Dock that supports OS 10.4's Smart Folders and has better image previews.—Michelle Victoria

IMAGE COURTESY OF PALM

PUMP UP THE PODCASTS

Looking to load up your 'Pod with podcast fare? Give these Mac-related shows a listen.—*Roman Loyola*

THE MACCAST

www.maccast.com

For Mac geeks, by Mac geeks.

MACHELP FROM HAWAII

http://radio.weblogs.com/0142820

A lil' bit of island flavor with your Mac.

MY MAC GUYS

http://mymacguys.blogspot.com

Two buddies talk Mac shop.

ONE MINUTE TIP

http://radio.weblogs.com/0141930

Mac tips—fast and friendly.

YOUR MAC LIFE

www.yourmaclife.com

Internet show hosted by Mac addict Shawn King.

DURAN DURAN: MAC SERIOUS

For 1980s new-wave superband Duran Duran, only Macs will do. "We're so reliant on Macs, it almost scares me," says keyboardist Nick Rhodes. "No PCs." Duran Duran used Apple products to produce *Astronaut* (their latest CD), the accompanying

bonus DVD, and their videos.

"All files were done on Pro Tools," says Rhodes. "We used .Mac accounts for sending each other MP3s." Rhodes loads samples into his keyboards by connecting his iBook to his vintage Roland Jupiter 8 synthesizer. "You can play a whole show on a Mac."

On their recent video shoot for the song "What Happens Tomorrow," the band used a Power Mac G5 and an array of Mac software including Adobe

After Effects and Final Cut Pro HD to transform themselves into animated constellations. Rhodes even turned his iBook into a makeshift synth keyboard. "I put chords on single keys," he said. "I wrote notes like, 'USFRJPQ.' People would look at them, knowing that chords run from A to G, thinking, 'What the hell?'"—*Joshua Rotter*



Simon LeBon (top) and Nick Rhodes.

IMAGE COURTESY OF SHORE FIRE MEDIA

SHAREWARE PICK OF THE MONTH

HTML-Optimizer X www.tonbrand.nl \$17

Crunch down your Web site's code using HTML-Optimizer X. Its Configuration Wizard makes it easy, and your visitors will be impressed by how fast your site loads.

—*Andrew Tokuda*

Speed up your site with HTML-Optimizer

This wizard will guide you through the configuration process – Step 2
You have selected this web folder path:
(Click Back if you made a mistake)

Jade:Users:droo:Desktop:Digital Droo Website:

HTML-Optimizer will create a duplicate of your web folder in its Optimizer Output folder.
When you start using HTML-Optimizer, the optimized web pages are stored in the duplicate web folder. Of course, you should upload from there.
Your original web pages will be left untouched.

Click Next to create the Optimizer Output folder in the same folder where your web folder resides.
Click Browse if you prefer a different location.

1 When you first launch HTML-Optimizer X, you're greeted by the Configuration Wizard. As you proceed, you're eventually asked to locate the local folder that contains your Web site.

2 Next, you're asked where you want to save the optimized files. Your original files remain untouched.

TIP

NEVER USE GRAPHICS FOR TEXT. That just makes your Web pages bigger—and slower.

Speed up your site with HTML-Optimizer

This wizard will guide you through the configuration process – Step 4

Select your internet connection method:

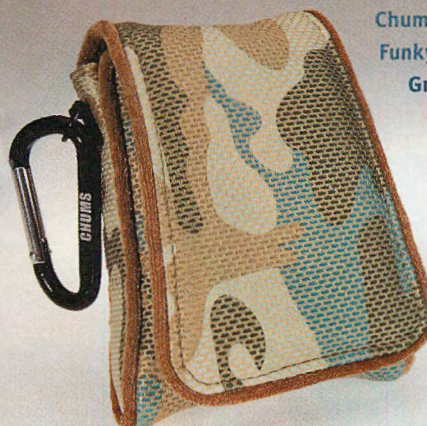
- ☒ Permanent connection (Cable/DSL/T1/T3)
- ☐ Dialup connection (56K modem/128K ISDN modem)
- ☐ None

3 After you select your connection speed, click Finish to continue.

File	Bytes Saved	%
Digital Droo Website:al_cdnews.htm	125	10
Digital Droo Website:al_demos.htm	77	9
Digital Droo Website:bio.html	68	7
Digital Droo Website:blank.html	24	8
Digital Droo Website:bottomframe.html	24	7
Digital Droo Website:cd.html	160	12
Digital Droo Website:contact.html	49	6
Digital Droo Website:ddal_order.html	43	3
Digital Droo Website:ddlicensing:attorres.html	1397	8
Digital Droo Website:ddlicensing:client.html	1029	10
Digital Droo Website:ddlicensing:index.html	0	0
Digital Droo Website:demos.html	101	9
Digital Droo Website:faq.html	19	6

4 That's all there is to it. HTML-Optimizer X logs the process and displays your stats.

IPOD CASE OF THE MONTH



Chums gets down with Funky Betty (left) and Groupie (right).



Two cases from Chums stand out this month: the Groupie (\$30, www.chums.com) for your iPod mini and the Funky Betty (\$35) for your standard-size iPod. The Groupie is made from PVC and comes in metallic colors. The Funky Betty is made of pack cloth with a ripstop texture and comes in crazy camouflage color combos—the only problem is you can't access the iPod's controls through the case. Both cases have a belt clip, a lanyard, and a carabiner clip.—*Michelle Victoria*

SUBMIT YOUR CASE Whether your iPod case is a custom-made one-off or mass produced, you can submit it for Case-of-the-Month consideration—just send it to iPod Case of the Month, MacAddict, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005. Please note that we cannot return cases.

TA

REQUIREMENTS

PowerPC G3, G4, or G5 processor • 256MB RAM (to which we say, "Ha!" Get yourself at least 512MB) • 3GB disk space (1GB more for developer tools) • Built-in FireWire* • DVD drive for installation (CDs are available for \$9.95 extra; see www.apple.com/macosx/upgrade/requirements.html) • Apple-certified video card for Core Image enhancements (list of supported cards available at www.apple.com/macosx/features/coreimage; as of press time, Mac minis and iBooks can't take full advantage of Core Image)

Our experts show you how to make Apple's big cat
jump through hoops, purr like a kitty,
and eat out of your hand.

by Niko Coucouvanis, Roman Loyola, and Rik Myslewski

MING TIGER

Let's cut to the chase:
Q. Is it really worth shelling out \$129 for Apple's new operating system, especially considering that the previous version squeezed an equal pile of cash out of you a mere 18 months ago?

A. Yes. Tiger's potent combo of interface enhancements, upgraded apps, and under-the-hood muscle will change (for the better) how you and your Mac work together.

We here at *MacAddict* have been mucking around inside successive beta releases of Tiger for months now, getting to know its innards, its powers, and its quirks. We tried to choke the new Spotlight search function with humongous gigaheaps of text, video, and image files, and we failed—its performance remains breathtakingly snappy. We tried to choke iChat AV's multiparty videoconferencing by denying it

the bandwidth it thirsts for, and we succeeded—at Apple's stated minimum iChat AV requirements, videoconferences look like hell. We tried to ferret out each and every one of Tiger's improvements, from the productivity-enhancing eye candy (iCandy?) of Dashboard to the Romulan Bird of Prey-level invisibility provided by the new Stealth Mode, and we failed—every time we thought we'd found the last of Tiger's new niceties, another cry of "Damn! Check this out!" rose from one of our cubicles.

Now it's time to share what we've discovered with you. If you've already brought the big kitty home, we'll show you a pile o' tricks that you don't yet know your new pet can do. And if you're still pondering that \$129 price tag, we're willing to bet you'll be reaching for your credit card about the same time you reach page 26.

ALL GOOD STUFF

Address Book..... p21	Dictionaries p26	Mail..... p20	QuickTime 7..... p17
Automator..... p19	DVD Player..... p17	Networking p24	Safari RSS..... p24
Calculators p23	Finder..... p15	Parental Controls p25	Security p25
Dashboard p18	Font Book..... p22	Preview p23	Spotlight p14
Desktop & Screen Saver..... p26	iChat AV p16	Print & Fax p21	TextEdit..... p20
	.Mac Sync p19		VoiceOver p15

*An Apple spokesperson told us that Tiger doesn't actually require built-in FireWire; rather, the advent of FireWire coincided with Macs capable of handling Tiger, and the company figured that simply calling FireWire a requirement rather than detailing all the required technical specs would be easier for everyone involved.



SPOTLIGHT

Search your entire hard disk—
and do it smartly.

Apple claims that Tiger changes the way you use your Mac, and that's mostly because of Spotlight. Sure, you'll try every one of the tasty Dashboard widgets; you'll play around with Automator until you realize you don't really do anything all that repetitive with your Mac; you'll even try some four-way videoconferencing and wish you had the bucks for a bandwidth upgrade. But you'll use Spotlight every day—you can hardly avoid it, as its little search boxes invade your menus, toolbars, and iApps—they even infiltrate the Open and Save dialogs of non-Apple software.

More than any of Tiger's other 200-plus new features, Spotlight delivers on its promise: lightning-fast searching with super-customizable results. Spotlight starts searching even before you can bang three letters into the search box (so searching for the word *search* might return a sea of *seas*), but it trims the results so quickly that you barely notice. The magic lies in Tiger's enhanced file system, which continually feeds the main Spotlight index and remembers what you've looked at lately.

Technically speaking, Spotlight is a different animal than the good-ol' Command-F searching you're used

to, but the former powers the latter. Click on the menu bar's magnifying-glass icon for a quick-and-dirty Spotlight search; for something quicker and dirtier, highlight a word on the screen and Control-click it to bring up a Contextual Menu with a Search In Spotlight option. The traditional Command-F power search now launches a modified Finder window with the usual left-side Sidebar and two search limiters to get you started—Kind and Last Opened—though you can add as many more as you'd like.

And what about these Smart Folders that everyone's so jazzed about? Simply click the Save button in the Search window to save your search results as a Smart Folder; open up the Smart Folder later, and Spotlight will automatically rerun that search. (This only applies to results from Command-F searches—you can't save menu-bar searches as Smart Folders.) Smart Folders add themselves to the Finder Sidebar by default; a default Saved Searches folder resides in your Library folder, though you can stash Smart Folders anywhere. You can't actually place anything in a Smart Folder yourself, however—they're just for storing the results of the automatic Spotlight search.—NC

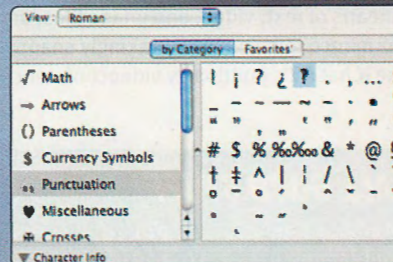
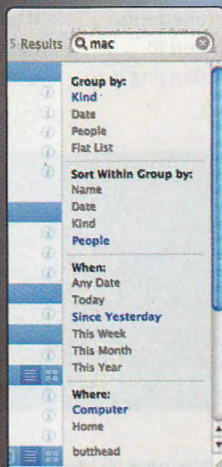


WHOA, SPOTLIGHT

Searching with Spotlight can seem like overkill, especially when it returns a load of files that have nothing to do with what you're looking for. Do yourself a favor and visit System Preferences > Spotlight. In the Search Results pane, turn off any of the 14 categories that aren't likely to contain what you're looking for (Fonts, for example). Once you've checked off the categories you don't want, click and drag the active categories into the order in which you want to see the results. To set up a blacklist of off-limits places, select the Privacy tab, and click the plus-sign icon to add folders or entire volumes to the list—or just drag them into the window if you're lazy. Just keep in mind that "privacy" is a relative term—as it turns out, the System Preferences Privacy settings only apply to Spotlight searches initiated from the menu bar, not those started with Command-F or File > Find—and that means the settings don't apply to Smart Folders, either.



Given the mountains of results Spotlight can find, you might want to tweak what it displays ahead of time.



Spotlight even shows up in the Character Palette, digging out more interrobangs than ever dreamed you had.

Then again, you can always do it at go time in the results window.

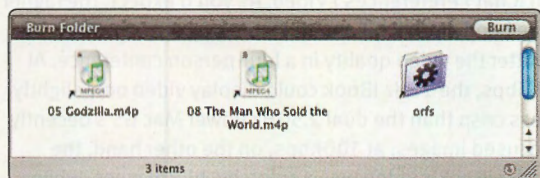
FINDER

Better disc burning and Smart Folders are Finder's most far-out features.

The big addition to Tiger's Finder is Smart Folder technology (more on that in a moment), but the smarts don't stop there. Smaller smarties include new Contextual Menu items and new items in the Application > Services menu for tying Tiger together. Select an item on the desktop or highlight a word in a document, and you can choose from a number of actions: Look up your word in the Dictionary, create a font library from selected text, launch a Slideshow, search with Spotlight, create Automator Workflows, and more.

And when an app "unexpectedly quits," the experience is a teeny bit less annoying: The error dialog now has a Try Again button to relaunch the app that bailed.

Burnable Folders. Burning discs from the Finder was one of OS X's initial marquee features, but Tiger finally makes it a feature we'll actually use. Create a Burn Folder (File > New Burn Folder) and drop in all the stuff you want to burn. The folder fills up with aliases, and when you're ready, you just press the Burn button beneath the toolbar to seal the deal (that is, burn the



While you can burn a Smart Folder to a disc, keep in mind that it's technically empty. (Note the little alias arrows.)

disc). With the old way, you had to drag all your files to a blank disc at once and click twice to burn the disc; Burn Folders, by contrast, let you amass files over time, assembling a load of aliases so you don't have to keep track of the originals or move them into a temporary holding folder.

Smart Folders. Smart Folders are essentially another way to use Spotlight (see "Spotlight," p14). Create one by selecting File > New Smart Folder from the Finder menu, or simply use the search box in any open Finder window—once your results start filing in, the window sprouts a Save button along with some searchable locations (Servers, Computer, Home, or any folder or volume you add via the Others button) and a plus-sign icon for adding search criteria. So what happens if you click that Save button? Your Smart Folder sprouts a groovy little action icon; the next time you open that folder, it polls Spotlight's continually updating index and busts out the latest results, lickety split. Smart indeed.

The obvious question is, "Can I put a Smart Folder inside a Burn Folder?" The answer is yes, but it's not the automatic backup solution you might be hoping for. When you burn a disc with a Smart Folder inside, it saves the Smart Folder's search criteria and fancy icon, but not the files inside—they're not actually inside the Smart Folder, you see. What you *can* do, however, is use a Smart Folder to find the items you want to back up and then drag them from the search window into a Burn Folder. Presto, a smart—or at least somewhat educated—backup folder.—NC

VOICEOVER

Hey, Mac, now you're talkin'!

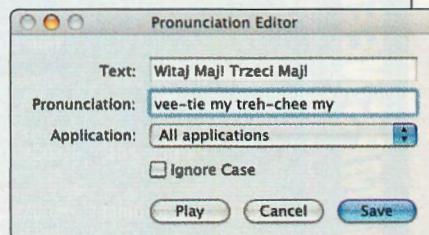
The Mac's assistive technologies have always been a step or two ahead of those built into Windows—and with the addition of the VoiceOver screen reader, Tiger leaps even further ahead.

VoiceOver provides a remarkably capable, vastly configurable, and instantly responsive screen reader designed to help vision-impaired users control their Macs solely by using their keyboards. Although VoiceOver's feature set is far too rich to be described here, you can begin



investigating it by choosing System Preferences > Universal Access, clicking the Open VoiceOver Utility button, then selecting Help > VoiceOver Help for a thorough introduction to this powerful tool. Even if you have no personal need for VoiceOver, you might enjoy the utility's

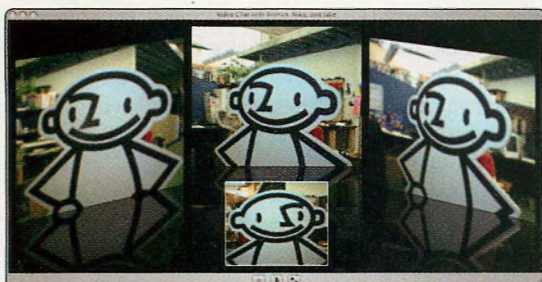
Pronunciation tab; just click the plus-sign icon to open the Pronunciation Editor and teach your Mac how to pronounce unfamiliar words.—RM



VoiceOver is designed for English speakers—but with a bit of prodding, its Pronunciation Editor can simulate passable Polish.

iCHAT AV

If your Mac's got the muscle, it's time for a multibuddy digital party.



Max sees himself (bottom) as his familiar mirror image, while his brethren appear as they do in real life.

Tiger's upgrade to iChat AV promises a lot—but it only lives up to its potential if you have hefty hardware and a fast Internet connection.

iChat AV's most dramatic new capabilities are multiperson audio and video chatting. In fact, "chatting" is a bit of an understatement—full-blown conferencing is a more accurate description. Both audio and video conferences are easy to set up. Icons in iChat's Buddy List indicate whether a buddy is available for audio conferencing (a phone icon) or video conferencing (a camera icon). Single phone or camera icons tell you that the buddy can participate in a one-to-one conference; stacked icons indicate that a multiple-person conference is possible. To initiate a conference, you'll need a more powerful Mac and a faster Internet connection than you'll need if you merely participate (see "No Wimps Need Apply," below); under ideal



conditions, ten people at a time can participate in an audio conference, and four can in a video conference.

To invite a crowd into an audio conference, first select one buddy, then click the phone icon at the bottom of the Buddy List window. That buddy is then prompted to join the conference; after he or she does, click the plus-sign icon at the bottom of the Audio Chat window, and a list of buddies available for audio chat appears; invite them to the conference one by one.

You initiate a video conference in the same way—but our testing proved that all Macs are most definitely *not* created equal when it comes to video conferencing.

Our test quartet of Macs included 1GHz and 1.33GHz iBooks, a 1.67GHz PowerBook G4, and—as the initiating Mac—a dual 2.5GHz Power Mac G5, each equipped with an Apple iSight video camera. When we first hooked all four Macs to a 10/100Base-T Ethernet switching hub connected to the Web over MacAddict's trio of high-speed T1 lines, not one of the four Macs displayed any "I can conference!"

stacked-camera icons. To make our quartet multiconference, we had to limit each Mac's bandwidth in iChat > Preferences > Video. As you'd expect, the higher the bandwidth limit and the more powerful the Mac, the better the video quality in a four-person conference. At 2Mbps, the 1GHz iBook could display video only slightly less crisp than the dual 2.5GHz Power Mac G5's decently focused images; at 100Kbps, on the other hand, the 1GHz iBook's video was a splotchy, blurry mess, while the dual 2.5GHz Power Mac G5 provided a seriously fuzzy, but acceptable, picture.—RM

NO WIMPS NEED APPLY

Apple's stated requirements for iChat AV are absolute minimums: While it's possible to join a video conference with a minimum-level computer, our testing showed that your video quality will be downright lousy.



		TO INITIATE		TO PARTICIPATE	
		Your Mac	Your Connection	Your Mac	Your Connection
AUDIO	One-to-One	Any G3, G4, or G5	56 Kbps	Any G3, G4, or G5	56 Kbps
	Ten Participants	1GHz G4, dual 800MHz G4, or any G5	128 Kbps	Any G3, G4, or G5	56 Kbps
VIDEO	One-to-One	600MHz G3 or any G4 or G5	100 Kbps	600MHz G3 or any G4 or G5	100 Kbps
	Four Participants	Dual 1GHz G4 or any G5	384 Kbps	1GHz G4, dual 800MHz G4, or any G5	100 Kbps

When four MacAddict editors held an iChat AV video conference, boss-man Rik (front and center in the left conference), initiating the conference on a dual 2.5GHz Power Mac G5 with a 2Mbps bandwidth limit, had a decent view of his colleagues; poor Jake (right conference), stuck on a 1GHz iBook at 100Kbps, saw his fellow editors even blurrier than in real life.

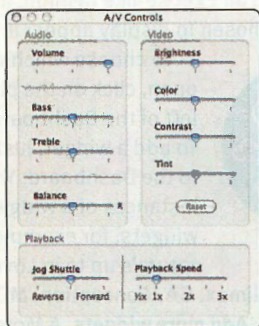
QUICKTIME 7

HD video support is the new hotness.

Users of HD (high-definition) video will get the most out of QuickTime 7, as it now supports H.264, an MPEG-4 video-compression standard that can deliver high-quality video at lower data rates (Apple says you can get the quality of MPEG-2 video for half the data rate). This will help you keep all those HD videos you'll be making (or Apple hopes you'll be making) more manageable for your hard disk and Internet connection.



H.264 also makes video scalable, so regardless of where you're watching your video—on a mobile phone, on your iMac G5, or on a 30-inch Apple Cinema Display—it will look good. But there's more to



Take a gander at QuickTime's new A/V Controls.

QuickTime 7 than just new HD support. You no longer have to switch out of full-screen mode to access movie controls; a control panel now appears when you move your mouse. A new A/V Controls window lets you quickly adjust audio and video playback. You can also capture movies directly through the QT player if you have a FireWire video camera or Webcam.

Oh, and you'll find one other "feature" of note: a ton of grayed-out items sprinkled throughout the menus.



These functions are only available after you upgrade to QuickTime 7 Pro (\$29.99). What a way to tease you about what you're missing, huh?—RL

You have to upgrade to QuickTime Pro to access Save and many other grayed-out features.

DVD PLAYER

Looking for an alternative to your standalone DVD player? Take a peek at Tiger.

The new features in Tiger's DVD Player make your Mac a compelling alternative to your set-top DVD player. What's new?

Video Zoom. Not a fan of those black bars on widescreen DVDs? You can use Video Zoom (Window > Video Zoom) to zoom in and get rid of the bars without losing image quality—though you'll end up cropping out parts of the image on the sides if you maintain the image proportions. You can choose to not maintain image proportions, but then people may end up looking tall and skinny.

Video Color. If you're watching a DVD in strange lighting, you can use the new Video Color controls

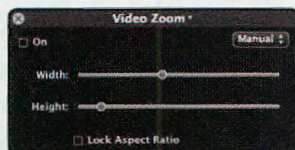


(Window > Video Color) to adjust Brightness, Contrast, Color, and Tint using slider bars.

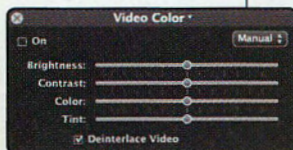
Audio Equalizer. Listening to concert DVDs? You'll want to use the Audio Equalizer (Window > Audio Equalizer) to tweak the sound for the best quality.

Other new features include Bookmarks (Window > Bookmarks), which let you index part of a DVD for later access; Video Clips (Window > Video Clips), which indexes segments of a DVD by marking the start and end points; and DVD Navigator (Window > Navigator), which displays info about the DVD (such as time elapsed, viewing angle,

chapter, volume, and more) on a screen that floats above the DVD-viewing window. Try doing all that with your set-top DVD player.—RL



Don't like letterboxing? Video Zoom can crop your image. Just don't tell your videophile friends.



Video Color lets you watch your DVDs in a whole new light.



Tweak sound output with Audio Equalizer.

DASHBOARD

Desk Accessories are reincarnated in the form of Tiger's Dashboard.

Long ago, in a Mac OS generation far, far away, there existed little one-trick apps called Desk Accessories. They were designed to perform simple tasks: The Calculator crunched numbers; you could write notes with Stickies; and Scrapbook let you instantly access artwork (oh, how we miss the Scrapbook!). Sadly, Desk Accessories went the way of Mac OS 9.

But Desk Accessories are back with a vengeance (hooray!)—only now they're called widgets. They reside in Tiger's Dashboard, they look marvelous, and they're even more helpful than Desk Accessories were thanks to the handy Dashboard interface and access to the Internet.

What's a widget? Widgets are small apps dedicated to small tasks; they're made up of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript code. There are three types of widgets: Accessory widgets, such as Calculator, are self-contained and don't need the Internet or data from another larger app; Application widgets, such as an iTunes player, rely on a larger app on your Mac; and Information widgets, such as Weather, pull information from the Internet. Apple includes 14 widgets with Tiger: Address Book, Calculator, Calendar, Dictionary, Flight Tracker, iTunes, Phone Book, Stickies, Stocks, Tile Game, Translator, Unit Converter, Weather, and World Clock. The name of the widget pretty much tells you what it does; for example, Weather tells you if it's sunny, rainy, cloudy, or snowing in any part of the world.

Widgets are relatively easy to create, so expect a ton of widgets from third-party software developers. JiWire (www.jiwire.com), for example, already has a widget that lets you look up Wi-Fi hotspots anywhere in the

world, regardless of where you are.

Don the Dashboard. Widgets hang out on a separate pseudo-desktop called the Dashboard. To open the Dashboard, click on the Dashboard icon in your Dock, or press the F12 key on your keyboard (you can reassign this hot key in System Preferences > Dashboard & Exposé). The Dashboard opens on top of your Desktop in an Exposé-like fashion, and all of the widgets you've chosen to display appear in one screen.

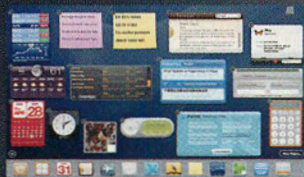
To choose which widgets you want to have open, click on the plus-sign icon on the lower left of the Dashboard to open the widget bar. To add a widget, just click on its icon or drag it to the Dashboard. You can even have multiple instances of a widget open—five Weather widgets, for example, to tell you what mother nature's up to in Lovelock, NV; Intercourse, PA; Climax, GA; Conception, MO; and Baby, France.

Add more widgets. A More Widgets button lies on the right side of the widget bar; if you click on it, you'll go to Apple's Dashboard Widgets Web site (www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/dashboard), where you'll find dozens of non-Apple widgets, such as a FedEx/UPS package tracker, the aforementioned JiWire widget, Stopwatch, DashBlog (which lets you make blog entries), Hula Girl, and more. Many are free; some are shareware; and others are demos of larger, full-scaled apps.

To add a new widget to your widget bar, just download it. If it's packaged properly, the download will decompress and then automatically install itself into the proper location on your hard drive (/Library/Widgets). Launch Dashboard, and you'll find the new widget listed alphabetically in your widget bar.—RL



WIDGET-OUT!



The Dashboard gives you instant access to small, single-purpose apps.



Every Dashboard needs a hula girl.



Find a neighborhood public Wi-Fi location with the JiWire Hotspot Finder.



Make blog entries through DashBlog.

start 00:08:601 reset

Track the speed of your sneakernet with Stopwatch.



Track your Amazon purchases with the FedEx/UPS package tracker.

AUTOMATOR

Let your Mac handle the tasks you do over and over.

On the surface, you might think Automator is just a new handy visual interface for good old AppleScript—that's what we thought at first—but Automator is a whole new method to automate mundane, multistep tasks, such as turning a document into a password-protected Encrypted PDF (see "Go with the Flow," below). Sure, an AppleScript guru could bang that out easily; but Automator makes it so you don't have to know squat about AppleScript. Simply drag and drop prescribed Actions into the order you want Automator to execute them. Now, instead of opening your file, calling up the Print dialog, selecting Encrypt PDF from the PDF menu, supplying a password, and

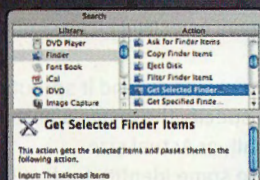


saving the document, you can make turn the process into a one-click affair by creating an Automator Workflow and saving it as an application or Contextual Menu plug-in. It's easy to add more Actions to, say, zip the file into an archive, save a backup, and mail the file to everyone in your Address Book who has a birthday in September.

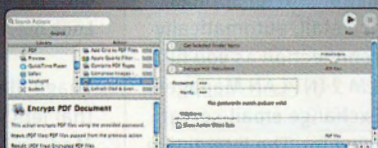
However, because Automator relies heavily on precoded Actions—which are not trivial to create—it isn't as flexible or powerful as AppleScript. But Automator comes with a stock Run AppleScript Action, meaning if you're an AppleScript expert already, you can make your Workflow as complex as your skills allow.—NC

GO WITH THE FLOW

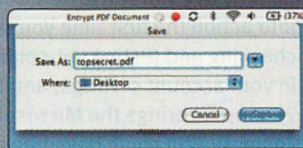
Making a Workflow couldn't be easier. Follow along as we create a little Workflow app that creates an encrypted PDF out of any document we drop onto it.



Kick your Workflow into gear with the Get Selected Finder Items Action.



Next, add the Encrypt PDF Document Action. A handy pane in the bottom-left of the window explains the selected action.



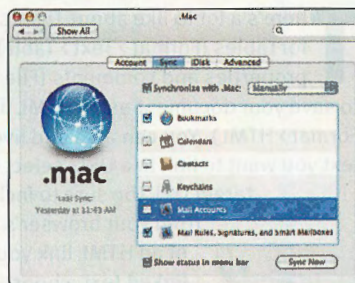
At run time, all you have to do is give the encrypted PDF a name (and check the handy status indicator up top).

.MAC SYNC

Lots of good news for .Mac subscribers—and one big warning.

Tiger brings a little extra to .Mac subscribers in the form of a slick new start page that gives quick access to everything—your Mail, HomePage, iDisk, and all the .Mac services. But the best news can be found in the Sync section of your .Mac Preferences pane: You can now sync your Keychains, Mail Accounts, Mail Rules, Signatures, and Smart Mailboxes to your .Mac account (in addition to the Calendars, Contacts, and Bookmarks you could sync before). We've heard grumblings, however, that syncing Contacts via .Mac between Address Book apps that aren't identically configured can make data in mismatched fields disappear. (If only one of the Address Books contains the contact's

birthday, for example, that information may vanish during the sync process.) To avoid this potential bummer, select Address Book > Preferences, click the Template tab, and use the Add Field pull-down menu to get your entries in matching order.—NC



Suddenly, .Mac has become the hub of our digital life.



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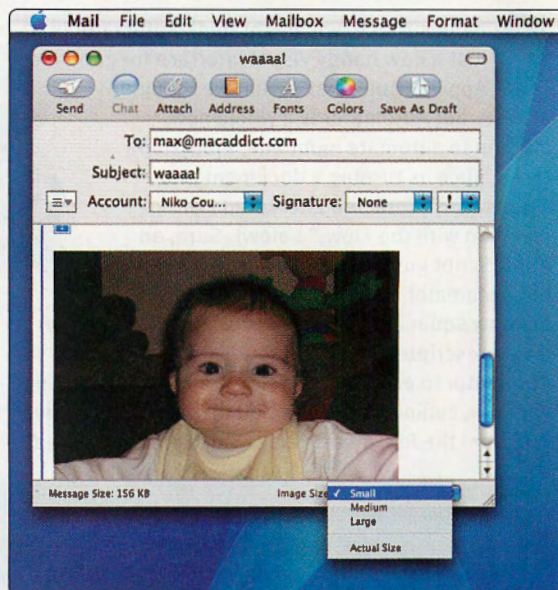
Apple's integrated email app suddenly becomes a lot more useful.

We've always liked the idea of using Apple's Mail, but its clunky performance and limited features made it tough to get any work done. Mail 2.0 looks to change all of that with new features centered primarily around Tiger's Spotlight search technology. Aside from the obvious—industrial-

strength mailbox searching—Spotlight also powers the new Smart Mailboxes, which remember and instantly execute your most complicated (or simple) search queries, just like the Finder's Smart Folders (see "Finder," p15).

Mail taps into other Tiger technologies, too, such as Parental Controls, which let you specify whose email gets through to Junior's mailbox and whose gets routed to yours. Slideshow controls let you view the photos you receive in emails as a full-screen slide show; there's even an easy option to send the keepers directly to iPhoto. The new Connection Doctor springs into action the first time you launch Mail, automatically checking and testing your online connection as you fill in your account settings; and NTLM 2 (NT LAN Manager 2) support brings the Microsoft Exchange email-server compatibility some have been crying for. The interactive spelling checker is nice—but it'd be nicer still if it could correct errors automatically.

Mail makes emailing photos much smarter: Attach an



Look ma, no more oversized pictures of little Junior!

image file to a message, and it sprouts a pop-up menu that lets you specify the image's outbound size—Large, Medium, Small, or Actual size.

There's also some identity foolery for .Mac users: You can use your .Mac Email Aliases from within Mail. Sayonara, spam!—NC

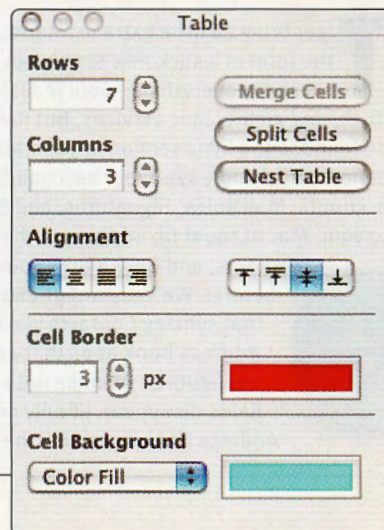
TEXTEDIT

Apple's lil' word processor grows up.

There's a lot to like about Tiger's beefed-up TextEdit, such as support for tables (Format > Text > Table), Spotlight-searchable document properties and comments (File > Show Properties), and the option to save your document as an HTML file, tables and all (File > Save As > File Format > HTML). You can also add live HTML links to any text: Select the text you want to link to a URL, select Format > Text > Link, and then enter the target URL (be sure to include the http://), or drag it into the box from your browser's address bar. If you want to edit the URL of an HTML link you've placed in a file, Control-click the linked text, choose Edit Link from the Contextual Menu that appears, then edit the URL in the Link Destination sheet that drops down.—RM



TextEdit now offers plenty of nifty options to help you set your tables.

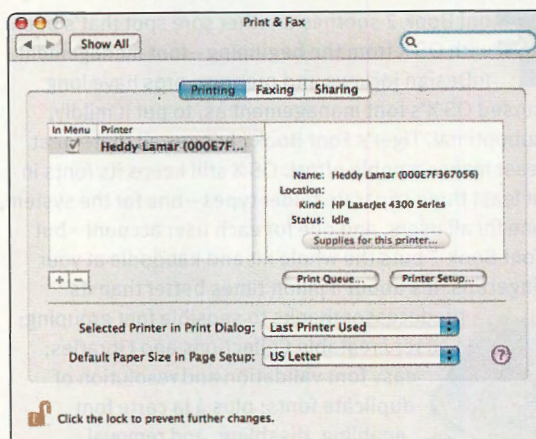


PRINT & FAX

Tiger makes printing more efficient by eliminating some of the clutter.

The nicest change to the Print & Fax Preferencepane (System Preferences > Print & Fax) is more-efficient printer setup. Instead of switching you to a separate Printer Setup Utility when you want to view your printer's stats, Tiger now displays the stats in the Preference pane. When you click on Supplies For This Printer, you're automatically taken to the online Apple Store. You still need Printer Setup Utility, however, to manage the details; when you click on the Printer Setup button, the utility launches and gives you a complete lowdown on your printer, including driver versions, network location, paper tray options, and more.—RL

The Print & Fax Preference pane gets a makeover.



ADDRESS BOOK

Automator and Spotlight help turn Address Book into a super-powered app.

Apple's own little contact manager is now smarter than ever, thanks mostly to the addition of Smart Groups. Like the Smart Folders, Mailboxes, Playlists, and Albums in other Tiger apps, Address Book's onboard search is powered by Spotlight, meaning it can quickly scan every field in your address cards (not just the obvious fields). You could, for example, search for all of your former coworkers who are now Apple employees. We can think of lots of ways Address Book could work hand-in-hand with Automator, especially if you have numerous contacts to impress by always remembering birthdays and other pertinent dates you've added to their cards—just use Automator to

link Address Book to iCal and Mail, and you'll be sending timely greetings on autopilot. Sound too tricky? Try Address Book's new Action buttons:

Click on the title next to a card's phone number, and up pops a menu offering to fire off an SMS message or dial your Bluetooth cell phone. If you'd rather use the phone hanging on the kitchen wall, Large Type displays a phone number full-screen so you can read it from across the room. Brilliant!

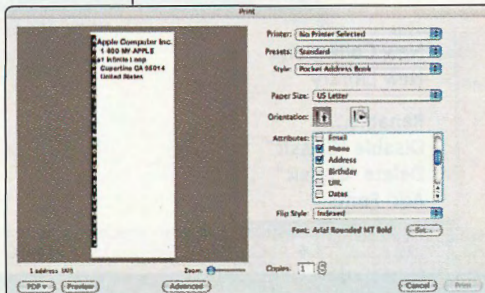
But our favorite new addition to Address Book is its printing support. Select a Group or Name and press Command-P (or go to File > Print) to bring up the new Print dialog, which sports smart, easily adjustable presets for envelopes, mailing labels, lists, and pocket address books.

The presets let you easily lay out and print your contacts however you want.

Still not sold? Three little words: Synchronize With Exchange. For those of you who know what that means, that's probably 'nuff said.—NC



Address Book can dial your cell phone for you—or teleprompt the number if you want to use the landline or fax machine.



Printing envelopes—not to mention pocket address books—has never been so simple.

FONT BOOK

Tiger's new font manager actually does its job.

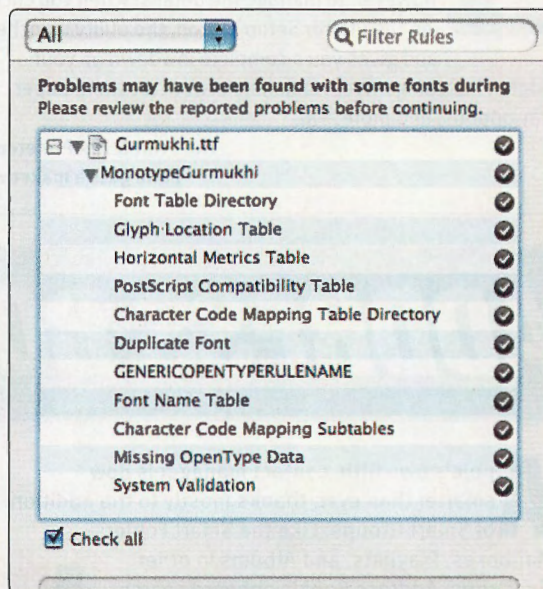
Font Book 2 soothes another sore spot that's been with OS X from the beginning—font management. InDesign jockeys and prepress pros have long cursed OS X's font management as, to put it mildly, suboptimal. Tiger's Font Book changes all that—or at least makes a noble effort. OS X still keeps its fonts in at least three separate folder types—one for the system, one for all users, and one for each user account—but Font Book 2 puts the whole kit and kaboodle at your fingertips. It's about a jillion times better than its

predecessor thanks to sensible font grouping; user-creatable Collections and Libraries; easy font validation and resolution of duplicate fonts; plus à la carte font enabling, disabling, and removal.

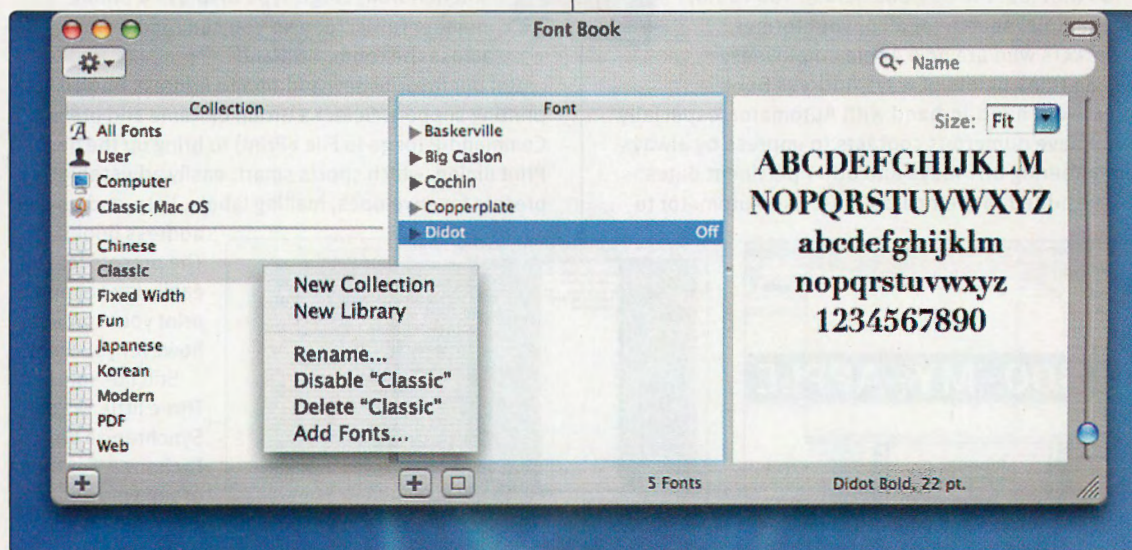
We have to wonder, though: Where are the smart font folders—the ones that auto-activate when you launch the document that uses them? We'll be looking for that in Font Book 2.0.1. Meanwhile, Font Book seems like the perfect place to try your hand at developing an Automator Workflow—except that you'd have to write the Actions yourself. As we write this, Automator only has an Action for activating fonts in a TextEdit document.

Bust out the Validator. If your Mac is behaving like it's possessed by demons, it might have something to do with font corruption. Font Book 2 helps you find out if your fonts are actually funkning things up: Select a suspect font (or use the shotgun approach and select your main All Fonts collection) and select File > Validate Fonts. The Validator checks every aspect of

a font's constitution (including its Table Directory and Character Code Mapping Subtables, whatever those are). Validator flags minor and serious problems, and a handy pull-down menu lets you display only warnings or errors. If you find anything serious, check the box next to the problem font, press Remove Checked, and the miscreant goes straight into the Trash (with a proper warning, of course).—NC



Validation is a good thing, but Font Book alerted us to errors that didn't seem to be there.



Font Book puts key font controls at your Contextual Menu fingertips.

CALCULATORS

Got numbers you need to crunch? Tiger's got you covered—in spades.

Eleven years ago, when the first Power Mac was introduced, the “Gee willikers!” demo du jour was the Graphing Calculator utility, which could smoothly rotate complex 3D graphs based on equally complex equations. It was an absolute mind boggler; but if you put it up next to Tiger’s new Grapher (/Applications/Utilities/Grapher), it would look like a ’57 Chevy parked next to a Mercedes SL600 Roadster. At the risk of stretching the

metaphor too far, the ’57 Chevy was a damn fine machine in its day—but we’ll take the SL600 in a head-to-head drag race, thankyouverymuch.

You may never need many—or even any—of Grapher’s capabilities, but fire it up at least once to revel in its geeky chic. When you do, you’ll be greeted with a New Graph dialog;

choose the 3D Graph tab, then select Default in the left-hand list. Click Open, then select any of the 3D graphs in the Examples menu. You’ll be presented with a rotating mathematical marvel and the equation upon which it’s based. Select and change some of the numbers in the equation, and enjoy the computational ride. Also, don’t neglect exploring the Inspector dialog (click the *i* icon) and Grapher > Preferences > Equations, Numbers, and Advanced.

If integration using the fourth-order Runge-Kutta Method isn’t your cup-o’-tea, Tiger offers you an enhanced version of the Calculator app that shipped with earlier versions of OS X (/Applications/Calculator). Pre-Tiger, the View menu offered you two choices: Basic and Advanced. Now you have three options: Basic (your standard, bare-bones four-function calculator); Scientific (previously known as Advanced); and our favorite, Programmer, in which you can crunch away in decimal, octal, or hexadecimal bases and even see the results of your ANDing, ORing, NORing, and XORing in the corresponding ASCII or Unicode characters. Oh, and for you old Forth programmers, don’t miss View > RPN (Reverse Polish Notation).—RM



Grapher’s Inspector allows you to make graphs as flashy as you are.

PREVIEW

You can do more than the name would suggest.

Preview, the built-in app for viewing images and PDFs, has grown a lot in Tiger. With Preview’s new tools, you won’t have to spend as much time using other apps to perform simple modifications to your documents and images.

The Image Correction tools in Preview (Tools > Image Correction), available for image files such as JPEGs but not for PDFs, may remind you of the tools available in iPhoto, with slider bars for Exposure, Gamma, Saturation, Contrast, Brightness, and more. Changes are permanent once you save a file, so be careful—Preview doesn’t archive an Original the way iPhoto does.

When you Get Info on a picture (Command-I), you can add a list of Keywords to your picture, making the image searchable by Spotlight.

When you open a PDF, you can add comments using

the new PDF-annotation tools. In the Tool Mode section of the tool bar, you’ll find a button that lets you choose Text Annotation or Oval Annotation. Text Annotation adds Post-it-like squares of text to your PDF, while Oval Annotations can circle items you want to call attention to. The Image Correction tools are grayed out for PDFs, but you can crop the page or the whole document at once.

Preview’s new screen-capture tools are available in File > Grab. When you take a screen capture via Preview, the shot opens in a new Preview window. You can perform three types of screen captures: Selection, which allows you to take a snapshot of a portion of your screen by clicking, dragging, and releasing the area; Window, which lets you select a particular open window; and Timed Screen, which takes a shot of your whole screen after a 10-second delay.—RL



Preview boasts new Image Correction tools.



Oval annotation lets you make comments.

SAFARI RSS

Faster news updates and
Stealth Mode surfing?
We'll take it!

Building on a solid pedigree of tabbed browsing, integrated Google searching, and SnapBack buttons, Safari RSS is leaner, meaner, and generally cleaner than its predecessor. The big news (as you could guess by its title) is the integrated RSS reader. If you haven't heard of RSS, it stands for Really Simple Syndication (though we've also heard Rich Site Summary and Rich Site Syndication), and it's a way for news-heavy Web sites and busy blogs to deliver headlines, summaries, and other bits of



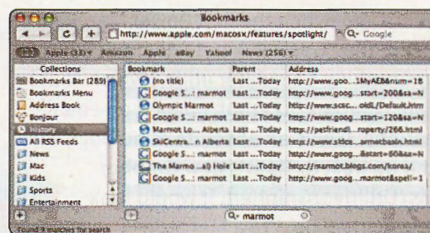
information to readers without any of the traditional Web-site trimmings. We used to view RSS content in dedicated RSS readers, such as NetNewsWire (\$39.95, <http://ranchero.com/netnewswire>), but Safari RSS displays it right in your Web

browser. Just click on for the little RSS icon in the address bar (Safari shows the button automatically when you visit a site offering RSS) to get that site's RSS feed, and bookmark it for whenever you need to update your headlines.

Safari also speeds up your online time-wasting, rendering full-blown graphical Web pages 1.8 times faster (or so Apple claims) than the old version and a full four times faster than Internet Explorer. We're no clock-watchers, but Safari RSS seems way fast. And



RSS cuts Apple's Hot News page to the bone.



History search is way better than reliving
the entire past, page by page.

speaking of speed, remember how much time you used to waste digging through your History to find that one page about marmots? Now you can simply press the little open-book icon or select Bookmarks > Show All Bookmarks to open your Bookmarks manager; select the History icon in the Collections list and type *marmot* in the search box at the bottom to search all the URLs and page titles in your History list.

In the "clean" department, we're sure Private Browsing mode wasn't developed specifically for concealing your addiction to online porn sites, and we're sure you have plenty of perfectly respectable reasons to use a sneaky browsing mode that leaves no telltale traces in your cache, cookies, or history of the sites you've visited. Heck, even the Downloads window politely declines to list the files you download—just keep in mind that the actual files you download with Private Browsing stay where you put them.

If Private Mode sounds like a dirty dream come true for juvenile delinquents looking to cover their online trails, there's a remedy: Safari works hand in hand with Tiger's advanced Parental Controls (see "Parental Controls," p25).—NC

NETWORKING

Telecommuters and
system administrators will
dig their new options.

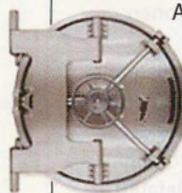
T rue to OS X's "easy Unix" roots, Tiger's networking advancements are great for 'Nix jocks and normal folk alike. For Joe Home Network, new Network Diagnostics (sort of like a retroactive Setup Assistant) help you isolate a dead connection and figure out whether the culprit is your network settings or your hardware configuration. Remote workers and other power networkers get advanced support for secure remote access thanks

to WebDAV, VPN (Virtual Private Network), and even NTLM 2 (NT LAN Manager) for Windows SMB (Server Message Block) servers. In a local-network environment (such as your office), you can now browse just about any type of network from the comfort of a Finder window.

And for you System Administrators: Deep, deep within Tiger's bowels, you'll find a Korn shell for husking around with Sun servers.—NC

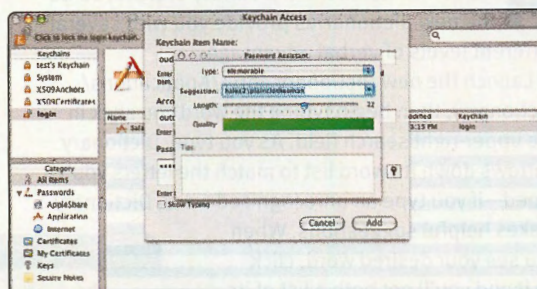
SECURITY

Keep prying eyes from even seeing your Mac online by activating Tiger's new Stealth Mode.



With Tiger, Apple better protects users from malicious creeps while making it easier for a Mac's rightful users to work and play. Take the Firewall, for example: Now you can avail yourself of Advanced functions (cleverly stashed behind the Advanced button) such as Firewall Logging, which keeps a record of blocked traffic and foiled break-in attempts. Our favorite new Firewall trick, though, is Stealth Mode—it not only stops hackers from getting into your system, it also hides your Mac's very existence from the rest of the Internet. You'll cruise the 'Net like a cloaked Romulan Bird of Prey. Sort of.

The updated Keychain Access utility (/Applications/Utilities) sports two smart new assistants that make it easier to use OS X's righteous under-the-hood Unix security. The Password Assistant's icon (a key-looking thing) appears in any dialog box where you're prompted to set a password; click the icon, set the type and length of password you want, and the assistant automatically generates 10 suitable passwords. The



You tell Password Assistant what type and length of password you want; it automatically generates 10 for you to choose from.

cleverly hidden Certificate Assistant (Keychain Access > Certificate Assistant) lets you create your own self-authorized security certificate; create a certificate authority with which you can create certificates for other people; or request, view, and evaluate certificates created by other users or certificate authorities. Certifiably cool.—NC

PARENTAL CONTROLS

Tiger can now help you protect both your Mac and your kids.

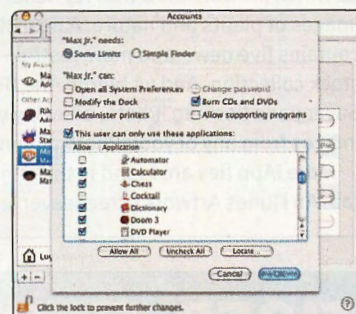
Kids can mess up Macs. The Web can mess up kids. Tiger can help you prevent both eventualities.

A new Parental Controls tab has been added to the Accounts pane of System Preferences; click it and you're presented with a pane that displays Mail, Finder & System, iChat, Safari, and Dictionary icons. Clicking the check box next to any of them changes the status of the selected account from Standard to Managed (Admin accounts can't be parentally controlled) and displays a sheet into which you can enter the limits you want to set. To limit Mail, you need to enter the email addresses that the managed account will be allowed to exchange emails with—but you can't add a list of proscribed addresses. In the Finder & System pane, you first choose either Simple Finder (which functions as it did in Panther) or Some Limits. Select the latter option, and you'll be able to limit the managed user's access to certain system functions and applications (see screenshot, right). Clicking the plus-sign icon in the iChat sheet brings up iChat's Buddies dialog, which lets you select approved chat Buddies.

Safari controls are a bit more complex to set up. First, log into the managed user's account and launch Safari.

Now, when you try to access a Web site that's not in Safari's Bookmarks bar, you get an error page telling you that "Safari is limited by parental controls." The page contains two buttons: Go Back and Add Website. Click Add Website, and you're asked for an administrator's name and password; when you supply them, a sheet appears prompting you to name the Bookmark, which is then added to the Bookmarks bar or folder.

Parentally controlling the Dictionary merely sanitizes its contents—the definition of *crap*, for example, becomes merely "a losing throw of 2, 3, or 12 in craps."—RM



Prevent your kids from mucking about in your Mac's innards.

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DICTIONARIES

Orthographers rejoice! The New Oxford American Dictionary now lives at system level.

As Tiger's new calculator offerings enable you to work with numbers in a variety of ways, so do the new dictionaries provide you with several different levels of verbal advantage.

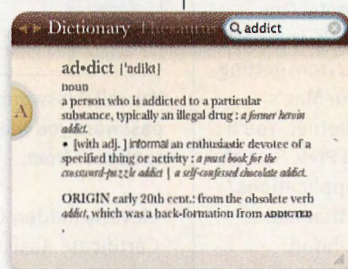
Launch the new Dictionary app (/Applications/Dictionary), then begin typing the word you seek in the upper-right search field. As you type, Dictionary narrows down its word list to match the letters you've typed—if you type an unrecognized word, Dictionary makes helpful suggestions. When you see your desired word, click on it and you'll get both a list of its definitions and, if appropriate, its synonyms. You can display results in 10 different text sizes ranging from minuscule to ginormous (and yes, both of those are in the Thesaurus). You can also cut and paste words into other apps.

The most extraordinary feature of the Dictionary app, however,

is that each and every word within is hyperlinked to its definition. When, for example, you look up *hypochondriacal* and find the unhelpful "of or affected by hypochondria," just double-click on *hypochondria* to bring up its more helpful definition—instantly.

Dashboard's Dictionary widget, while useful for quick-and-dirty lookups, is a pale shadow of the Dictionary app. There's no hyperlinking, for example.

Far more impressive is the integration of the system Dictionary into Apple-supplied apps such as TextEdit and Mail. Hold down the Dictionary-invoking key combo (Control-Command-D is the default), drag your mouse over any word, and its definition pops up in a small window; see the word's Thesaurus entry by selecting Oxford Thesaurus from the Oxford Dictionary drop-down menu, or click More to launch the Dictionary app and go to the selected word's definition in the blink of an eye.—RM



When all you need is a quick definition, this widget will suffice.

SCREENSAVER & DESKTOP

Even the eye candy is new and improved.

In Tiger's Desktop pane, the Nature folder has been expanded into two folders: Nature and Plants, both of which are bolstered with far richer selections of, well, images of plants and nature. A new Black & White folder contains five new—and more restful—additions to the stock collection. And as before, the Desktop & Screen Saver pane ties into iPhoto, allowing you to display images from any of your iPhoto albums.

More iApp ties are found in the enhanced Screensaver tab. An iTunes Artwork screensaver lets you display up

to eight rows of CD covers from your iTunes collection, and a new RSS Visualizer displays a spinning and continually updating array of your choice of 80 news feeds from Safari's RSS implementation.—RM

Check out Tiger's elegant new selection of black-and-white desktop images.



TIGER TIDBITS

The cat's got some hep tricks up its fur.

We stumbled on a few unheralded kitty tricks that we thought were pretty cool and decided to share them:

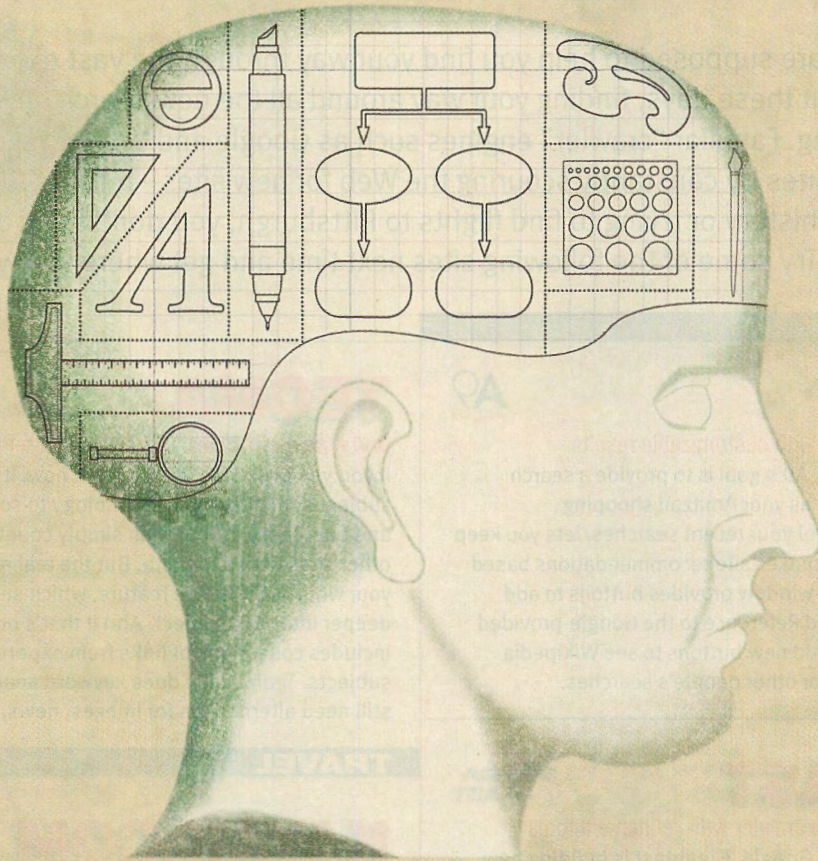
- If you shoot pictures with different digital cameras, simply enter one of the cameras' model names into **Spotlight** to find photos shot by that camera.
- Type a few letters of a word in **Mail**, **Stickies**, or **TextEdit**, and press Escape. You'll be presented with a scrolling list of all the words that begin with

that letter; click one of the words to insert it into the document.

- You don't even have to open **Font Book** to make a font collection: Simply click on a document in the Finder (we tried Microsoft Word and Adobe InDesign docs) and select **Finder > Services > Font Book > Create Collection From Text**.

MacAddict editors Niko, Roman, and Rik are still debating whether Mac OS 10.4 is *Panthera tigris tigris*, *altaica*, *sumatrae*, *corbetti*, or *amoyensis*.

OmniGraffle



OmniGraffle

Pronunciation: ȯm'nē-grăf'l

Noun: 1. A powerful, yet easy to use Mac OS X diagramming and drawing application. 2. A tool to create org charts, family trees, flow charts, network diagrams, school projects, posters, CD covers, and almost anything else you can think of. 3. A great way to make all your PC-using friends really, really jealous.

Learn more and download a free trial at www.omnigroup.com/julymacaddict



SEARCH PARTY

By Robert Strohmeyer

Search engines are supposed to help you find your way through the vast expanse of the Internet, but these days, finding your way around all the new search engines can be almost as baffling. Familiar “crawler” engines such as Google and Yahoo build massive databases of Web sites by constantly scouring the Web for new sites—but when you’re writing a paper on American history or trying to find flights to Pittsburgh, you don’t need a billion results, just the right ones. Try some of the following sites next time and get where you want to go faster.

GENERAL

A9



www.a9.com ▶ crawler with customizable results

An Amazon.com subsidiary, A9’s goal is to provide a search experience as personalized as your Amazon shopping experience. A9 keeps track of your recent searches, lets you keep a diary of visited sites, and makes site recommendations based on past searches. The main window provides buttons to add columns such as Images and Reference to the Google-provided main results, and you can add new buttons to see Wikipedia entries, medical literature, or other people’s searches.

GIGABLAST



www.gigablast.com ▶ crawler with refinement tools

In an effort to out-innovate Google, Gigablast is building new features all the time. At press time, the site’s index contained a mere 1.5 billion sites (compared to 8 billion for Google), but the results were plenty potent. Most intriguing is the site’s Giga Bits feature, which shows which sites have the most results for your keywords. Gigablast can also return pages related to your search that don’t necessarily have your search terms. Gigablast doesn’t yet offer specialized searches for images, so Google’s still got Gigablast beat in that regard.

MSN SEARCH



http://search.msn.com

▶ crawler plus Encarta encyclopedia database

Microsoft just can’t help itself: Whether there’s a need or not, the company is determined to wiggle its way into every nook and cranny of the Net. In an effort to take top seat in the search world, it now offers MSN Search. The results, compiled by the company’s own crawler, MSNBot, are impressive, providing relevant results with little extraneous junk. The site’s integration of the Encarta encyclopedia makes it a great resource for quick research.

TEOMA

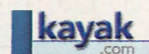


www.teoma.com ▶ crawler with refinement tools

If you’ve never tried Teoma, do it now. Its crawler engine uses subject-specific search technology to sort sites by relevance and popularity, rather than simply counting the number of other sites linked to them. But the real reason Teoma is worth your while is its Refine feature, which suggests ways to dig deeper into your subject. And if that’s not enough, it also includes collections of links from experts in a wide range of subjects. Teoma only does keyword searches, though—you’ll still need alternatives for images, news, music, and maps.

TRAVEL

KAYAK.COM



www.kayak.com

▶ queries other travel sites to consolidate results

Kayak.com doesn’t just consolidate travel results from more than 100 travel sites such as Expedia and Priceline.com; it also adds extra tools for refining your results to get the best price, best travel dates, and best lodging. It vastly improves the travel-search interface by automatically showing you airports near your destination as you type, eliminating the Expedia-esque annoyance of entering a search only to be told the engine couldn’t figure out what airport you were looking for.

SIDESTEP



www.sidestep.com

▶ queries other travel sites to consolidate results

While it’s not quite as simple to navigate as Kayak.com, Sidestep makes buying easier by taking you directly to the travel site that provided your result. It also searches more sites than Kayak, and that means more results. Our search for flights from SFO to Tokyo saved us more than \$100 over Kayak’s results.



RESEARCH

ANSWERS.COM

Answers.com

www.answers.com ▶encyclopedic database

Most search engines just point you to sites where you might find what you're looking for. Answers.com goes the extra mile by consolidating entries from GuruNet, Wikipedia, and other encyclopedic resources to give you what you're looking for without sending you elsewhere. It also features a 1-Click Answers utility that you can install on your Mac for instant explanations—just select the word or phrase you want to look up, and press Command-Option-G for instant answers.

BRAINBOOST

Brainboost
QUESTION EVERYTHING

www.brainboost.com

▶crawler with proprietary ranking system

With a natural-language engine similar to that of Ask Jeeves, Brainboost lets you ask plain-English questions and displays complete answers, as well as pointers to the sites they came from. Also like Ask Jeeves, however, the answers may or may not be the ones you're looking for. For example, when we asked, "Why do birds sing?" the top result explained, "Because they trust God." We were hoping for something a little more scientific. But the answer to "What is Independence Day?" was perfectly adequate.

FACTBITES

factbites
Where results make sense

www.factbites.com ▶crawler with content analysis

Factbites describes itself as "more interested in content analysis than link popularity," and it's true. The results are heavy on the encyclopedia entries, which makes it great for facts and history and not much use if you're looking for the name of a dentist in Tulsa. It's also got a sidebar list of Related Topics that may point you to useful ancillary data at least lead you on an interesting information trail (Independence Day ▶ Green Day ▶ Green Bay Packers, for example).

SHOPPING

BECOME

BETA
BECOME.com

www.become.com

▶crawler with proprietary ranking system

This shopping site locates reviews, buying guides, and other such information. If you already know you want that 42-inch Sony Plasma HDTV, go right to price sites like Froogle and PriceGrabber; but if you're still trying to decide between LCD and plasma, Become is a good start.

OODLE

oodle

www.oodle.com ▶portal to classified-ad sites

Like a massive interactive classifieds section, Oodle lets you browse for stuff you want, from cars to jobs. Clicking Cars ▶ Volkswagen ▶ R32, for example, shows you a sports hatchback with low mileage in San Francisco for only \$29,000. The results are mostly culled from www.craigslist.com (plus some newspapers), but Oodle is far easier to search through.

PINPOINT

pinpoint™

www.pinpointshopping.com

▶crawler focused on shopping sites only

By crawling through listings at thousands of different online stores, Pinpoint (run by America Online) lets you comparison shop without being flooded by cluttered listings. Type in *PowerBook 15*, for example, and you'll get several pages of prices, plus a pop-up window that lets you specify whether you're looking for a computer, battery, case, or something else.

PEOPLE

ZABASEARCH

ZABA

www.zabasearch.com

▶queries public databases to consolidate results

Zabasearch take away most of the challenge in finding people on the Internet. We searched for our own names and were horrified by the accurate results. Then we looked up our old girlfriends (yeah, like you never did that) and got a solid page of addresses and phone numbers. None of the apparent links worked in either Firefox or Safari, though.

ZOOMINFO

zoominfo

www.zoominfo.com ▶crawler with a focus on people

When you're more interested in *who* people are than *where*, Zoominfo is a handy little site. It crawls the Web looking for descriptions of people in a variety of press-release sites, media outlets, and public databases, then extracts and summarizes descriptive information. When we looked up our own names, it gave us a pretty good recap of all our great Mac stories.

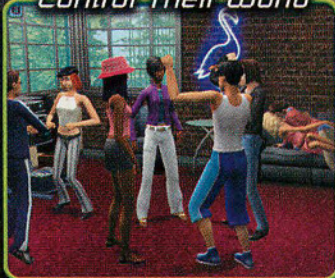
In Stores Now!

The SIMSTM 2

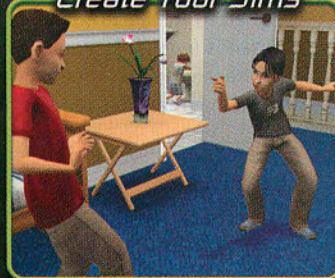
The Next Generation People Simulator

www.aspyr.com

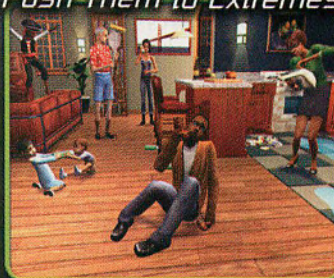
Control Their World



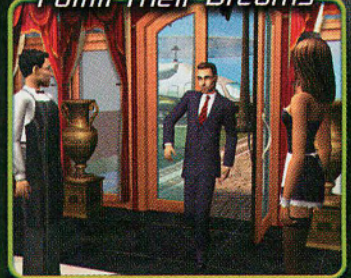
Create Your Sims



Push Them to Extremes



Fulfill Their Dreams



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Challenge Everything™



You'll be
blown away.



You'll be
impressed.



You'll be
satisfied.



You'll be
disappointed.



You'll be
pissed off.

better living through smarter shopping

It's one thing for a product to help you do what you want to do; it's another thing for a product to actually make you feel good. Take Better Energy System's Solio (pictured), which captures the power of the sun to keep our iPod batteries charged. Or ThinkMaps's Visual Thesaurus 3, which helps us see language in a new light. And then there's Roland's FR-7 V-Accordion, which renders us speechless every time we squeeze it. Next month, we're hoping to achieve inner bliss with such products MacSoft's Rise of Nations and Apple's new Power Macs.

- 40 Backdrop Designer Photoshop plug-in
- 42 BTMicro Bluetooth mouse
- 49 Burning Monkey Mahjong mahjong game
- 43 CanoScan LiDE 500F flatbed scanner
- 38 Cheetah3D 3D-modeling software
- 44 Chessmaster 9000 chess game
- 41 Combo 1.8-Inch ION Drive portable hard drive
- 42 Command & Conquer Generals: Zero Hour real-time strategy game
- 45 Drive Genius disk-utility software
- 39 Eye Candy 5: Nature Photoshop plug-in
- 32 Final Cut Express HD video-editing software
- 36 FR-7 V-Accordion digital accordion
- 48 HD300 digital music player
- 44 iBoom iPod boom box
- 47 iFlicks movie organizer
- 34 MetaSynth 4 audio-synthesizer software
- 49 MicFlex microphone
- 49 mini Skirt: glo Mac mini stand
- 46 Photo to Movie 3.2 photo-effects software
- 48 ShutterBug Web-authoring software
- 45 Solio solar iPod charger
- 37 SoundSoap 2 audio-cleaning software
- 41 StoreJet 1.8-Inch Portable HDD portable hard drive
- 35 Stylus Verve point-and-shoot camera
- 47 Visual Thesaurus 3 word-reference app
- 46 WireTap Pro sound-recording software

PLUS:

The HotList

50 The best of the best from recent reviews.



X Compatible with
Mac OS X or later.

9 Compatible with
Mac OS 9 or earlier.



We'd spend our
own hard-earned
money on this
product.

Final Cut Express HD

BARGAIN-PRICED PROFESSIONAL VIDEO EDITOR



Final Cut Express HD's core interface is the same as the one in Final Cut Express—but that's not a bad thing.

Apple has gone certifiably gaga over HD (high-definition) video these days. The lovefest now extends to Final Cut Express HD, which lets you edit

heavily compress their video, and that extreme compression makes HDV poorly suited for some jobs. For starters, it limits your color-correction options, since HDV doesn't record a lot of color information to begin with. The compression makes it harder to

cleanly remove actors from green-screen backgrounds (for compositing work); it can also create noticeable video artifacts in scenes with a lot of fine details or quick camera pans.

Still, HDV works fine for other jobs: low-budget indie films, documentaries, news compilations, and wacky-but-classy family videos—and Express makes capturing and editing HDV a breeze. To get an HD project started in Express, just select the Easy Setup that suits your HDV footage's resolution. HDV cameras shoot in one of two resolution modes: 720p (1,280 by 720 pixels with progressive-scan frames) or 1080i (effectively 1,920 by 1,080 pixels with interlaced frames). After Express transcodes the HDV into a custom video codec, editing in Express works just like it always has with standard DV video. Recording the video back to tape, however, requires

At \$299, Final Cut Express HD is a great deal.

HD video with a wide assortment of pro-quality tools at a bargain basement price of \$299. That's an exciting step, to be sure—but whether HD support is genuinely useful to today's casual filmmaker is a totally different matter (see "To HD or Not to HD?", right).

There are actually a number of HD formats in the digital world, and Express HD works with (and only with) the relatively new HDV format. Think of HDV as HD for the common man—a growing number of prosumer HD cameras use HDV to store crisp, clear imagery on MiniDV tapes. That's a nice convenience, but it comes at a price—HDV cameras

TO HD OR NOT TO HD?

While it's relatively easy to shoot and edit HD video, it's not as easy to actually distribute it. First off, your audience needs an HD television to watch your video, and most folks still use standard-definition boob tubes—you may wind up having to convert your HD imagery to standard definition, losing many of HD's benefits. What's more, there are no HD-capable DVD players on the market yet, so you can't play your HD masterpieces on a DVD player (though Blu-Ray and HD-DVD players are due later this year, just in time for the holiday shopping season).

Given these gotchas, what can you do? You can record your edited HD movies back to your camera's tape, attach the camera to your HDTV, and roll the tape. You can also save your videos as QuickTime files and play them directly on your Mac—QuickTime 7's new H.264 compression technology keeps HD-file sizes relatively small, so you may even be able to email short movies to friends.



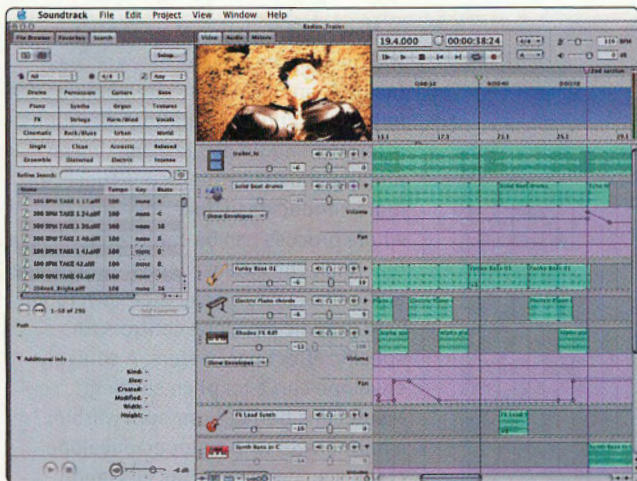
COMPANY: Apple
CONTACT: 800-795-1000
or 408-996-1010, www.apple.com
PRICE: \$299 (full), \$99 (upgrade)

REQUIREMENTS: DV: 500MHz G4; HDV: 1GHz
G4; Mac OS 10.3.7 or later; Quartz Extreme graphics;
384MB RAM (512MB for real-time effects and
Soundtrack, 1GB for HDV editing); 15GB disk space

GOOD NEWS: Seamless HDV capture and editing. Can import iMovie projects.
BAD NEWS: Few filmmakers will find HDV support useful—at least for today.

MacAddict RATED

GREAT



Use Soundtrack to score your video with prerecorded loops.

a render that lasts several times longer than the length of your movie.

Soundtrack and LiveType. In addition to HDV support, Express now ships with two handy stand-alone apps that first appeared in Final Cut Pro: LiveType and Soundtrack (not to be confused with Soundtrack Pro, which is part of Apple's new Final Cut Studio).

Interested in adding music to your edited video? Express can export your

project's video to Soundtrack, where you can compose the video's score by arranging prerecorded music loops in time (you get a library of some 4,000 quality, royalty-free loops, using a wide variety of instruments and speeds). You can change a loop's musical key and speed it up or slow it down without affecting pitch.

This flexibility and a simple interface lets pretty much anyone create a rich, original score; when you're done, Soundtrack automatically transfers the audio back to Final Cut's Timeline as a stereo AIFF mix.

LiveType is a second cousin to Apple's Motion (\$299, www.apple.com); it lets you quickly create fancy typographical effects. Unlike Motion, LiveType focuses almost exclusively on text animation

and doesn't require an industrial-strength Mac in order to run. You can design your titles using any TrueType or PostScript font, or you can try one of the 27 included animated fonts (though most have a cartoony feel). You can also customize type with over 150 animated effects (bounces, rotations, moving glows, color cycles, and a lot more), each of which can be keyframed. The only hitch: While LiveType looks impressive in a demo, you won't be able to intuitively figure out its interface or easily come back to it after a few months out of practice. Expect to put in a few solid hours to get a feel for it before getting real value from it.

The bottom line. This upgrade is all about Soundtrack, LiveType, and HDV support. There are no interface changes, and Express still doesn't let you log individual video clips as you capture them, nor does it let you consolidate edited projects so they keep only the video your edits actually use. But hey, if Express did that, you might as well call it Final Cut Pro. At \$299 (or \$99 for an upgrade), Final Cut Express HD is still a great deal.—*Helmut Kobler*

SLIM PICKINGS

Wanna buy an HDV camera? As of press time, there were only two models available: JVC's JY-HD10U (\$3,995, www.jvc.com) and Sony's HDR-FX1 (\$3,699, www.sony.com). Both shoot in a widescreen 16:9 aspect ratio, but the JVC model records video at 1,280-by-720-pixel resolution and 29.97 progressive frames per second (progressive mode gives video

a slightly less flickery look); the Sony model shoots at an effective 1,920-by-1,080-pixel resolution and produces interlaced frames that are slightly more flickery (conventional NTSC TVs also use interlaced frames). Still, we favor the newer Sony for its higher resolution, a unique 24-frames-per-second film mode, and a bunch of other refinements.

Eeny meeny miney mo,
I want HD video.



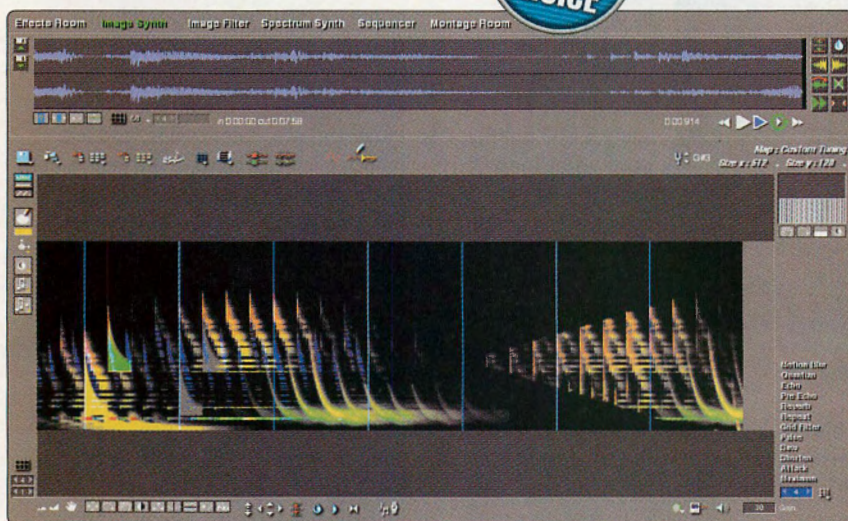
JVC JY-HD10U



SONY HDR-FX1

MetaSynth 4

ONE-OF-A-KIND SYNTHESIZER



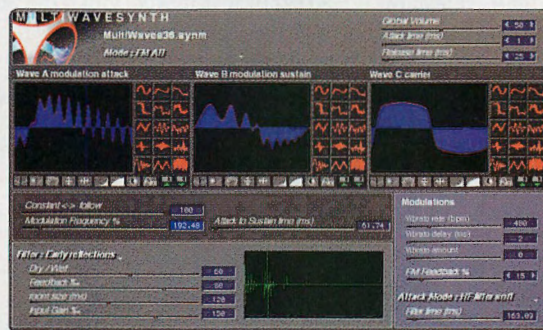
The amazingly intuitive MetaSynth interface invites experimentation.

Musicians and sound designers can now finally breathe a sigh of relief: A Mac OS X–native version of U&I Software’s unique MetaSynth has finally arrived. And it really, really rocks. Really.

MetaSynth is a fascinating synthesizer like no other. Its central concept is that any visual image can be represented in sound by assigning musical notes to individual pixels, with visual brightness mapped to volume and pixel color used to determine where to place a note in the stereo field. Think of it as a mutant player-piano roll.

MetaSynth’s interface is organized into rooms; each room manages a different aspect of audio editing and effects. Image Synth is the primary room, where visual information is converted into sound. A decent selection of image presets guides you through the intricacies of image-to-audio conversion, and the interactive nature of MetaSynth invites seriously deep exploration. Each pixel of an image is the equivalent of a musical note, and you can use anything

from a simple waveform to a multi-sampled audio source as the oscillator, resulting in pure sonic bliss. The color of a pixel determines the stereo-field position of the resulting rendered note: Red is panned left, green is panned right, and yellow is exactly in the middle. Audio effects such as tremolo and echo are represented by graphically



The new MultiWave synth module is more powerful than many standalone synths.

filtering the source image, and you can even use the built-in painting tools to paint custom sounds. If you think this description is bizarre, rest assured that the aural results are positively outrageous.

New stuff. Existing MetaSynth fans will be delighted by the new goodies (aside from the long-awaited native OS X implementation). All editing operations offer a live audio preview, making an already unusually interactive tool even more conducive to tinkering—and the whole process can be captured to disk in real time. The extensive post-processing audio effects now have their own room, with graphic envelope controls for specific effect parameters. A squiggly envelope curve for pitch shifting results in a perfectly smooth warble; a harmonizer with a sloped envelope creates an eerie moaning glissando unlike anything you’ve ever heard. The possibilities are simply astounding, and the quality of the effects is nothing less than stellar.

The Spectrum Synthesis room delivers an entirely new synthesis method—it lets you edit, rearrange, and mangle sine waves. The new Sequencer room lets you manually enter musical notes as a starting point for image-to-sound processing, but sadly, it lacks support for MIDI-note input or importing MIDI files—our biggest gripe with the app. The Montage room is where MetaSynth patches are combined together with a graphic multitracking interface to make complete musical compositions. New core-instrument options (including an amazing granular-synthesis mode) and a slick Image Filter room further extend the already overwhelming possibilities for making cool sounds. Everything you create can be exported in AIFF format for use in your favorite sequencing package or sampler.

One more gripe: MetaSynth Standard only works in 16-bit audio mode; if you want 24-bit audio processing (as well as integrated external-audio recording), you’ll need the more-expensive MetaSynth Pro. We don’t think you should have to pay extra in order to get 24-bit audio.

The bottom line. This is the closest thing to a groundbreaking app we’ve seen in a while. If you are interested in audio, you need to see (and hear) MetaSynth.—David Biedny



COMPANY: U&I Software
CONTACT: www.uisoftware.com
PRICE: \$499 (Standard version),
\$599 (Pro version)

REQUIREMENTS: 266MHz
G3, Mac OS 10.1 or later, 128MB
RAM, 300MB disk space

GOOD NEWS: OS X native (finally). Unique Spectrum Synthesis.
Envelope-controlled effects. Real-time capture to disk.
BAD NEWS: No MIDI support. Separate (and more-expensive)
Pro version needed for 24-bit audio processing.

MacAddict RATED
★★★★★
GREAT



Stylus Verve

ALLURING AND PETITE POINT-AND-SHOOT CAMERA

It's easy to like Olympus's four-megapixel Stylus Verve. It's small and stylish. It's easy to use. And its images look pretty darn good for a point-and-shoot camera.

Like its sibling the Stylus 500 (see June/05, p40), the Verve can easily be held in your right hand. Your index finger naturally rests across the top of the camera to access the shutter button, while your thumb is within

Olympus offers different body colors to suit your personality.

easy reaching distance of the zoom rocker button on the back. Below the zoom button lies a directional pad for navigating through the Verve's options and functions. The mode dial has only three camera modes: Shooting, Playback, and Video Record (you can capture QuickTime movies at 15 frames per second in 320-by-240-pixel or 160-

by-120-pixel resolution). The nifty Quick View button on the upper left corner of the back side of the camera lets you look at the photos you've taken—you don't have to use the mode dial to switch to Playback mode. After using the Quick View button, you can return to Shooting mode by pressing the shutter button halfway or pushing the Quick View button again. It's an excellent way to review a shot you've just taken and then quickly get back to snapping pictures.

The Verve has 14 different shooting modes: Auto, Portrait, Landscape, Landscape+Portrait, Night Scene, Cuisine, Beach & Snow, Self Portrait+Self Timer, Behind Glass, Self Portrait, Indoor, Candle, Sunset,

May your pictures have as much verve as this camera.

and Fireworks. When you set the camera to one of these modes, it remains in that mode until you change it. When you turn off the camera, the mode defaults back to Auto. A small but useful icon on the Verve's LCD tells you which mode you're in.

The Verve's LCD measures 1.8 inches; images are clear and easy to look at, though the screen is hard to see at some angles in bright sunlight. And like the Stylus 500, the Verve doesn't have a viewfinder; if you can't see the LCD, you'll have to resort to a framing guessing game.

The overall image quality of the Verve is quite good. Tones look natural and colors exhibit no obvious shifting, though the amount of noise in even mild shadow spots is higher than in other cameras of this class. We also found that some of our images lacked sharpness—just enough to be noticeable, but not enough to be a deal breaker. Unfortunately, the Verve is limited to a 2x optical zoom.

Since the Verve is small enough to be carried with you everywhere, Olympus offers six different body colors to suit your personality: Black, Crystal Blue, Copper Orange, Pure White, Silver,

and Velvet Red. The metal body is sturdy enough to withstand constantly slipping into and out of a pants pocket. The lens retracts when you shut the camera off, and a metallic cover slides over the lens to protect it. The lens cover makes a loud shutter-like sound when it moves in and out of place—a sound that we found to be very

pleasing, oddly enough.

The bottom line. The Verve is a nice combination of portability, style, ease of use, and good image quality. Good camera; small package.—Roman Loyola

TIP

ZOOM SPECS

Read zoom specs carefully. Often optical- and digital-zoom numbers are combined to make one big overall zoom total. Focus on the optical-zoom number; digital zoom is crap.



COMPANY: Olympus
CONTACT: 888-553-4448,
www.olympusamerica.com
PRICE: \$299.99

REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped
Mac, Mac OS 10.1 or later

GOOD NEWS: Pocket-sized. Easy to use. Stylish. Good image color quality. Assortment of body-color choices.
BAD NEWS: No viewfinder. Soft images. Only has 2x optical zoom.

MacAddict RATED
GREAT

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO

V-Accordion FR-7

REALISTIC AND FUTURISTIC DIGITAL ACCORDION

The accordion has taken more than its fair share of ridicule over the years (What's the difference between an onion and an accordion? People cry when they chop up onions. Ba-dum-dum!), but Roland's new V-Accordion FR-7 may change all that. The first digital squeezebox affords modern MIDI conveniences without sacrificing the form or function of the instrument.

The FR-7 looks, feels, and sounds like a traditional bellows-driven accordion, but underneath the hood lies the power and flexibility of a modern digital keyboard. The lifeblood of this instrument is a physical-behavior modeling system that gathers information about key presses and bellows pressure and then produces true-to-life accordion sounds from an impressive 32MB of waveforms. Although built specifically for simulating different styles of accordions from all over the world (folk accordions, concertinas, and so on), the FR-7 also does an impressive job emulating other families of bellows-driven instruments; it does an especially haunting imitation of highland bagpipes (complete with droning bass notes).

The FR-7 also includes a wide variety of orchestral waveforms; these sounds can be played solo or easily layered with the accordion sounds.

Gigging with the V-Accordion is a snap, especially if you opt for the FR-7 model and its built-in speakers (the \$5,499 FR-5 lacks speakers and a power amp). Plug in your battery pack, and you're free to roam from table to table in your favorite Italian restaurant. The built-in speakers can easily meet (and exceed) the volume level of a conventional accordion. Thoughtfully placed speakers—one on the key side and one on the button side—preserve a normal accordion's inherent stereo spread, and conveniently located reverb, chorus, and delay knobs let you adjust the sound to your liking in real time.

The FR-7 is a barrel of fun for accordionists young and old.

For larger venues, the FR-7 can be plugged into an amplifier using two standard 0.25-inch instrument cables for stereo operation.

MIDI control. In a recording environment, just plug the stereo outputs directly into your mixer or Mac, and you're ready to go. If you want to record MIDI data in an application such as GarageBand, you're amply covered: Note information from the different sections (treble notes, bass buttons, and chord buttons) is simultaneously broadcast on separate MIDI channels, giving you great flexibility. Combine this with the touch- and aftertouch-sensitive keyboard, and you have a powerful and expressive MIDI controller. Although the FR-7 could be used to control just

about any MIDI sound source, most users will probably stick with the quality array of on-board sounds. One

downside: The instrument lacks built-in MIDI ports. Instead, they're located on the rear of the included foot-pedal/battery-charger assembly, which must be plugged into the wall and then attached to the accordion with a bulky, proprietary 18-pin cable.

The V-Accordion offers an additional practical perk that has been thus far unattainable with a traditional accordion: Want to practice late at night without harassing your neighbors or significant other? No problem—just turn down the volume knob, or plug in a set of headphones, and perfect that polka late into the evening.

The bottom line. If you're serious about squeezeboxes, you should place your FR-7 order now, before Weird Al buys them all up. —Jude Kelley



COMPANY: Roland
CONTACT: 323-890-3700,
www.rolandus.com
PRICE: \$6,499

REQUIREMENTS:
Mac with audio inputs.

GOOD NEWS: Solid construction. A huge variety of accordion sounds.
BAD NEWS: Awkward positioning of MIDI ports. Price tag means it's for serious accordionists only.

MacAddict RATED
★★★★★
GREAT

SoundSoap 2

EFFORTLESS AUDIO CLEANER



Everything you need to clean audio is in this single window.

SoundSoap Pro (Jan/05, p42) does a great job of cleaning audio and provides fine-tuning controls for maximum tweakability. SoundSoap 2 costs \$500 less, doesn't require a hardware key or a host application like

If you don't use Apple's Soundtrack Pro, you can get a lot of value out of this \$99 app.

the Pro version does, and is easier to use. Most importantly, it still does a fine job of cleaning audio.

Audio noise comes in four distinct flavors: hum, rumble, broadband, and the click and crackle caused by phonograph needles. Hum, rumble, and click 'n' crackle are the easiest to clean. Hum, which is caused by ground loops in power lines, is easily removed by clicking on SS2's 50Hz or 60Hz button (which one you use depends on the country you live in; the U.S. uses 60Hz). Rumble usually occurs in the 40Hz sound range; it may not be

audible on your PowerBook speakers, but you'll certainly hear it on a quality sound system. All you have to do to get rid of it is click SS2's Remove Rumble button. You can probably guess what the Remove Click & Crackle slider does. If you know how to identify these problems, the fixes are no-brainer simple, and the results are quite good.

Tougher stains. It takes a bit more work to get rid of broadband noise (unwanted audio that occurs throughout the frequency spectrum), but SoundSoap 2 still makes it easy. Unlike SoundSoap Pro, which uses a graphic equalizer-like interface for audio experts to fine-tune noise reduction, SS2 uses only two knobs—Noise Tuner and Noise Reduction—to simplify the process. The results are surprisingly good.

SS2 starts by isolating the noise; if you have an audio clip that begins with two

seconds of noise, just click on the Learn Noise button and begin playing the audio. The app then takes a profile of the noise and automatically removes it from the rest of the sound file. If the noise doesn't occur at the intro, you can set in and out markers to isolate the portion of the audio that contains the noise, turn on the Loop function, and have SS2 analyze that portion.

Once SS2 learns the noise, you can click on the Noise Only button to hear what SoundSoap is trying to remove. If you hear some of the desired audio, you can turn the Noise Tuner to have less of that (less desired audio in Noise Only mode means more desired audio in the cleansed output). Once you tune it, you can turn off Noise Only and use the Noise Reduction knob to

further suppress the noise. We found that this method, though not as precise as Pro's, is more than adequate for most situations.

SS2's Enhance slider is handy when you're working with audio files that have been digitized from old tapes and records. Raising the slider increases the bass and treble without reintroducing noise that has been removed. Used sparingly, this yields pleasing results.

Apple's new Soundtrack Pro (included in the Final Cut Studio suite) offers similar noise-reduction tools, so Final Cut Pro 5 users may not need SoundSoap 2. If you don't use Soundtrack Pro, however, you can get a lot of value out of this \$99 app.

The bottom line. SoundSoap 2 is a superb bargain. While you don't get the advanced tweakability of the Pro version, there's a lot to like about SS2's simplified controls.—Andrew Tokuda

TIP **SOUND AUDIO**
It's best to record audio with as little noise as possible. Invest in a good-quality microphone to get the best results.

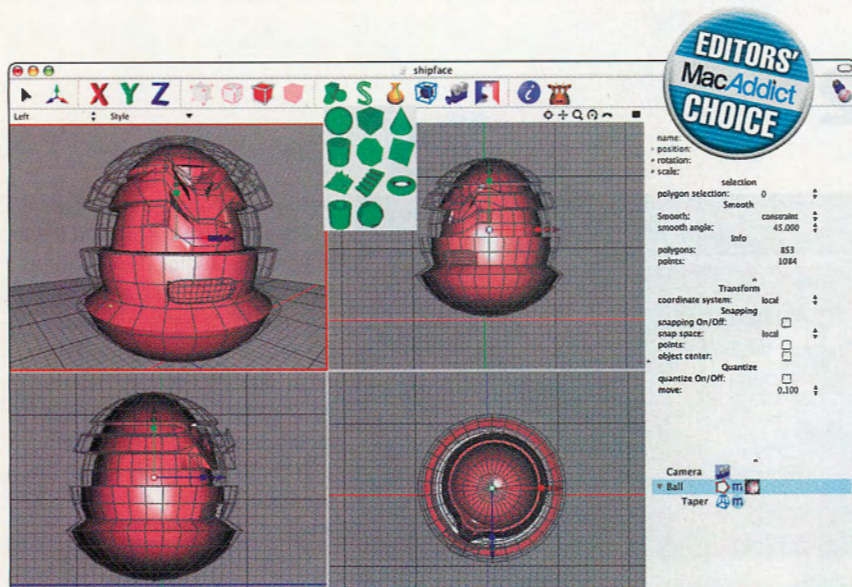


COMPANY: Bias
CONTACT: 800-775-2427,
www.bias-inc.com
PRICE: \$99

REQUIREMENTS: 400MHz G4; Mac OS 10.2 or later;
128MB RAM; 20MB disk space; host application that
supports Audio Units, DirectX, RTAS, or VST plug-ins, or
QuickTime 6.5 for standalone mode

GOOD NEWS: Great results. Easy to use.
No host application required. Great price.
BAD NEWS: Doesn't have the flexibility of
SoundSoap Pro.

MacAddict RATED
AWESOME



Cheetah3D's intuitive interface makes advanced 3D editing about as painless as it will ever get.

Cheetah3D

AFFORDABLE AND ABLE 3D-MODELING SOFTWARE

If the complexity of the tools and techniques required to turn a virtual lump of clay into an actual, recognizable object has been keeping you from serious 3D modeling, Cheetah3D might be for you. This powerful software will have you spinning out wildly sophisticated 3D models faster than its namesake chases down dinner—all for a grand total of \$69.

The most initially striking aspects of Cheetah3D are its clean interface and straightforward approach to 3D modeling. You start by creating a basic 3D shape (such as a sphere, cube, tube, or cone), and then use the plethora of selection and reshaping tools to stretch, squeeze, pull, and push that shape into something completely different. The three primary editing modes—selecting individual control points, edges, or polygon faces—allow you to precisely pick the part of a shape you want to work with. You can also start with 2D spline-based objects, either drawn inside Cheetah3D or imported as Illustrator CS documents, and extrude them or sweep them into 3D space. Each action you perform is displayed as a visual stack of commands in the main editing window, and you can reorder

the stack to change what you've done. Powerful stuff.

Advanced tools. The advanced polygon-editing tools are surprisingly powerful for a sub-\$100 program. We loved choosing a few polygonal faces of a sphere and then creating instant inset windows using the Inner Extrude and Normal Move editing commands. Making complicated shapes—from spaceships to strange life-forms—is an almost-effortless (and fun) task. Object modifiers such as taper, bulge, shear, twist, and displace let you for distort and change an object's shape without explicitly changing the object's geometry. You can also easily create hot-key commands for literally anything,



Cheetah3D's interface is cleanly designed, and the icons in the pop-up menus are easy to understand.

a great way to speed up your workflow.

While Cheetah3D's texture-mapping abilities and procedural textures aren't as extensive as they are in comparable

offerings such as Eovia's Carrera (May/05, p40) or Maxon's Cinema4D (\$695, www.maxon.net), they're decent and potentially extensible via Cheetah3D's plug-in architecture. Much of the rest of the app can also be customized thanks to great JavaScript support. Unfortunately, the app offers little documentation on customizing JavaScript; according to the developer, that will be addressed in a future release.

Once you've whipped up some 3D monsters, Cheetah3D offers some surprisingly potent rendering options, including a decent ray tracer with radiosity support (for greater realism in rendered lighting and shadows), multithreaded rendering (taking direct advantage of that dual-processor Mac you finally invested in), and HDRI (high dynamic range image) support for IBL (image-based lighting), a technique that illuminates an image using a graphics file instead of standard point lights and spotlights (both of which are also included in Cheetah3D). You can also specify the amount of supersampling and antialiasing for a scene; but you can only render an image up to 2,048 by 2,048 pixels, which some digital artists may consider a limitation.

We had good success exporting 3D objects out of Cheetah3D into other rendering apps, thanks to the extensive (and also largely undocumented) support for other 3D-file formats, including DXF, 3DMF, and 3DS (all widely supported by third-party rendering and animation software).

The bottom line. While this version of Cheetah3D lacks animation capabilities (a version with animation is in the works), that's not a big drawback. Given its power and effortless advanced modeling (not to mention its low price), we heartily recommend Cheetah3D to aspiring 3D artists and anyone who wants to make 3D with minimum effort and maximum fun.—David Biedny



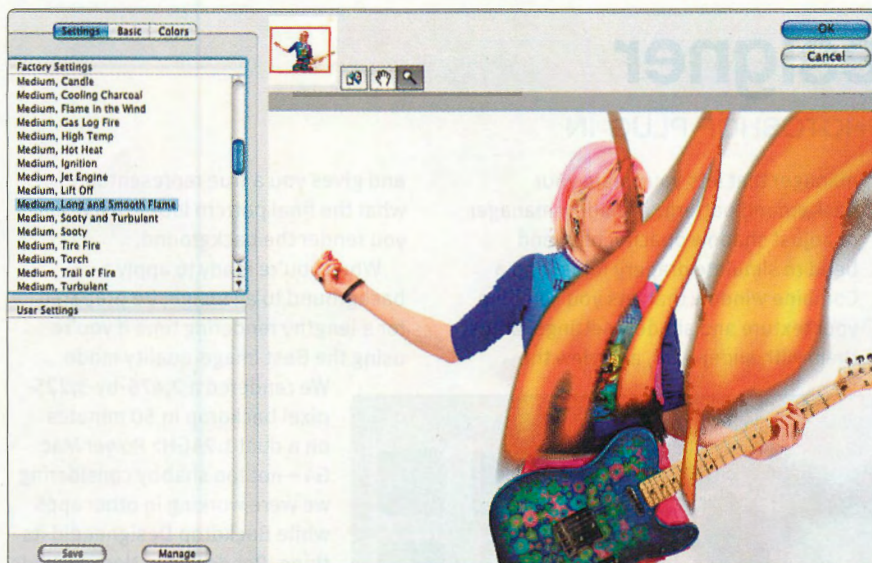
COMPANY: Cheetah3D
CONTACT: +49 9070 404,
www.cheetah3d.com
PRICE: \$69

REQUIREMENTS:
G3, Mac OS 10.3 or
later, 256MB RAM,
16MB VRAM

GOOD NEWS: Powerful, easy-to-use tools. Extensive modeling options. Decent-quality built-in rendering with multithreading support. Bargain-basement price.
BAD NEWS: No animation. Texture handling could be better. Incomplete in-app documentation.

MacAddict RATED





Eye Candy 5: Nature

HIT-OR-MISS SET OF PHOTOSHOP PLUG-INS

Alien Skin's Eye Candy 5: Nature is a set of Photoshop plug-ins that add natural effects to your images—for example, you can use Nature's Rust filter to add a corrosive effect to a steel sign. Nature delivers the effects that it promises well, but some filters take a lot of time to apply—and sometimes the time it takes just to get a preview will test your patience.

Nature has 10 effects: Corona, which produces solar flares; Drip, which creates a melting effect; Fire, which adds flames to an image; Icicles, which adds stalactites and a glossy look; Ripples, like the kind you see when you drop a pebble in a pond; the aforementioned Rust; Smoke, as from a chimney; Snow Drift, for adding snow to an image; Squint, for blurring an image; and Water Drops, for that just-came-in-from-the-rain look.

Nature's interface is easy to understand—we were able to dive right in and play without reading up first. Nature lets you render to layers so the original image remains intact, and you can toggle between the original and the version with the effect in the preview. Nature also has a good gradient editor,

unlimited undo and redo, keyboard shortcuts, and mouse-over help—all great stuff.

The render. If you plan to use Nature mostly for Web graphics and are working with small files, Nature operates quickly. But for high-resolution graphics, Nature's rendering and previewing may make you think twice before applying



Some effects have a nice impact, while others may not give you the realism you were expecting.

the plug-in—some filters preview quite slowly and take time to kick in; others run at acceptable speeds, but then bog down come rendering time. Squint (one of our favorites) has a fairly

The interface makes it easy to apply effects to your image in Eye Candy 5: Nature.

speedy preview, but rendering is slow. Snow Drift has a slow preview but a reasonable render speed—a worse scenario because you want to get an idea of how your effect looks as soon as possible. Also, the rendering in the preview window can sometimes look quite different than the actual end result—not bad or unacceptable, just different.

We had mixed feelings when it came to the quality of the effects. Icicles produces extremely realistic results with reflections of surrounding color; Corona is fun and easy to get lost in; and Ripples nicely reflects colors from your original image. On the other hand, Smoke is merely average; and although Fire works well on its own, when applied within an image that has no environment to support the flame (such as glowing areas on a subject or blown-out areas at the heart of the fire), the effect appears illustrated, not natural. Frankly, we were tempted to get the grill going out back and shoot our own fire with a multi-megapixel camera.

Casual Photoshop users can have a ball with Nature—as long as your Mac

has the juice to handle the renders. Web designers can also benefit, but only a few of the filters provide the kind of realism that print professionals need. Nature needs to be much more, well, natural if it wants to keep pace with Hollywood-quality effects, and its speed needs to be improved

so that creative pros actually have the time to effectively put the effects to use.

The bottom line. Nature is a clear step forward in interface design, but it still needs some retooling to be fully impressive.—Steven Parke

COMPANY: Alien Skin
CONTACT: 888-921-7546,
www.alienskin.com
PRICE: \$99

REQUIREMENTS: 500MHz PowerPC G3; Mac OS 10.2.6 or later; 256MB RAM; Adobe Photoshop 7 or later, or Adobe Photoshop Elements 2 or later, or Macromedia Fireworks MX 2004 or later

GOOD NEWS: Fun effects. Easy to use.
BAD NEWS: Although some effects look real, some don't. Inconsistent preview and render performance.

MacAddict RATED
●●●●●
SOLID

Backdrop Designer

PRODUCTIVITY-ENHANCING PHOTOSHOP PLUG-IN

With a little bit of Photoshop handiwork, you can make a dull photo pop by adding a new background. Digital Anarchy's Backdrop Designer is a Photoshop plug-in that lets you create draped backgrounds—you may never have to worry about shooting space and

manager that lets you create your background pattern; a shadow manager to adjust shadow opacity, blur, and bend to simulate drapery folds; and a Combine window that lets you combine your texture and shadow settings, adjust them with slider bars, and view the

and gives you a true representation of what the final pattern looks like when you render the background.

When you're ready to apply a background to an image, be prepared for a lengthy rendering time if you're using the Best image-quality mode.

We rendered a 2,475-by-3,225-pixel backdrop in 50 minutes on a dual 1.25GHz Power Mac G4—not too shabby considering we were working in other apps while Backdrop Designer did its thing. Rendering in Normal mode took about 25 minutes, and Fast mode rendered in less than 10 minutes. Considering Backdrop Designer's great preview ability, we can accept its render speed. Leaving your Mac alone to dedicate its processing power to rendering will give you faster results; but in a production environment, chances are you'll

need to work on other things while Backdrop Designer works in the background.

Backdrop Designer provides some unusual, over-the-top palettes and shapes that you'll probably never use, and some effects look so unnatural that they may actually emphasize the fact that your background has been digitally added.

All in all, however, there are enough backgrounds that closely emulate natural fabrics, drapes, and light sources to make this a useful plug-in.

The bottom line. Backdrop Designer may be a one-trick pony—but it's a finely tuned, well-thought-through, thoroughbred pony. This plug-in is a fine investment for serious photographers and Photoshoppers.

—Steven Parke



With Backdrop Designer, you can mix and match textures and shadows to make your own background drapery (above). You can also use the Bend controls (right) to adjust the folds of your drapery.

overly frugal art directors again.

Backdrop Designer can be used with Digital Anarchy's Primatte Chromakey (May/05, p44)—a Photoshop plug-in that performs masking (removing a portion of an image that isn't needed) on any image shot against a solid backdrop (blue and green, typically)—but you can also use Backdrop Designer on images you mask manually.

When you launch Backdrop Designer from within Photoshop (Filter > Digital Anarchy > Backdrop Designer), you enter the easy-to-use Backdrop Designer interface. The interface has a texture

results. There are tons of possible combinations—enough that we could make it look like we rented actual drapes for our photo shoot. Also, the backgrounds are resolution independent, meaning you can apply your pattern to any foreground image and it will automatically match the resolution of the foreground.

Previews. When you tweak your backdrop settings, the preview works like a preview should—in real time. That gives you the flexibility to try different settings to get just what you want. Plus, the preview displays colors accurately



COMPANY: Digital Anarchy
CONTACT: 415-586-8434,
www.digitalanarchy.com
PRICE: \$199

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS X
or later, Adobe Photoshop 5.5 or
later, Adobe Photoshop Elements
2.0 or later

GOOD NEWS: Easy to use. Cuts time from manually creating a backdrop. Backgrounds are resolution independent. Real-time previews.
BAD NEWS: Render times can be lengthy. Some unnatural-looking palettes.

MacAddict RATED
●●●●●
SOLID

StoreJet 1.8-Inch Portable HDD Combo 1.8-Inch ION Drive

STYLISH PORTABLE STORAGE

Drives like Iogear's Combo ION Drive and Transcend's StoreJet Portable HDD are small enough to take with you wherever you go.

Both units house 1.8-inch hard drives. We looked at a 40GB ION, which retails for \$259.95 (a 20GB model is available for \$209.95). We also looked at a 20GB StoreJet, which retails for \$145 (a 40GB version is available for \$208). So why is the 20GB StoreJet

pocket. The silver-metal and black-plastic ION is bigger, measuring 4.8 by 3.1 by 0.6 inches, so it might be too big for your pocket—but it does come with a built-in belt clip for Batman-like portability. Which one you prefer is simply a matter of taste.

Speed. Using Xbench (free, www.xbench.com), a popular performance-measuring utility, we found that FireWire performs drastically better than USB

2.0. The FireWire-equipped



Industrial chic or iPod-like sleek? Take your pick.



ION averaged 10.28MB per second during Xbench's 256KB Sequential Uncached Write test (which simulates writing moderate-size files) over USB; that rate

priced much lower than the 20GB ION? Simple: The StoreJet only has a USB 2.0 connection, while the ION has both USB 2.0 and FireWire 400—and drastically faster transfer rates (more on that later).

The StoreJet uses power from USB, so no external power supply is needed. The ION has a separate power adapter, which means you need extra pocket space if you want to carry the ION around.

Now it's time to talk aesthetics. As you can see from the photos, these are two distinctly different drives. With its white exterior with chrome accents, the StoreJet is somewhat iPod-ish. It measures 3.74 by 2.81 by 0.59 inches and is small enough to fit in a shirt

shot up to 15.1MB per second when using FireWire—a 47 percent boost. We also saw a big boost in Xbench's 256KB Sequential Uncached Read test; the speed jumped from 11.07MB per second on USB to 18.75MB per second on FireWire—a 69 percent increase.

In a USB-only comparison, we found the ION to be marginally faster than the StoreJet: In the 256KB Sequential Uncached Write test, the ION was 12 percent faster than the StoreJet. In the 256KB Sequential Uncached Read test, the ION was 14 percent faster.

The bottom line. You'll need the FireWire-capable ION Drive for its speed. You'll like the StoreJet for its portability.—*Roman Loyola*

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Combo 1.8 inch ION Drive

COMPANY: Iogear

CONTACT: 866-946-4327, www.iogear.com

PRICE: \$209.95 (20GB), \$259.95 (40GB, tested)

REQUIREMENTS: FireWire- or USB-equipped Mac, Mac OS 9.x or 10.2 or later

GOOD NEWS: Nice design. Can clip to you belt.

Two connectivity choices.

Good FireWire speed.

BAD NEWS: Requires separate power adapter.



StoreJet HDD

COMPANY: Transcend

CONTACT: 714-921-2000, www.transcendusa.com

PRICE: \$145 (20GB, tested), \$208 (40GB)

REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped Mac, Mac OS 9.1 to 9.2.2 or 10.2 or later

GOOD NEWS: iPod-like white style. Small. Doesn't need external power.

BAD NEWS: Slow USB 2.0 speed. No FireWire port.



Command & Conquer Generals: Zero Hour

IMPROVED REAL-TIME STRATEGY GAME

Command & Conquer Generals' first mission pack, Zero Hour, builds on the shoulders of greatness, adding new maps and a few dozen units, buildings, and delectable upgrades to one of our favorite real-time strategy games.

You can now, for example, equip pricey American planes with countermeasures, build fake Global Liberation Army (GLA) buildings as decoys, and use a slow-to-reload but far-reaching Chinese cannon to lob tactical nukes with devastating

some unique units that you don't see during normal play, which keeps things fresh. For example, U.S. General "Ace" Granger can't use the Paladin tank (one of our favorites), but he can command a Comanche chopper (complete with stealth mode), a carpet bomber, and some other nasty surprises. Seeing what each general has up his or her sleeve and figuring out a good strategic response adds much-appreciated depth.

Zero Hour's improved enemy AI comes up with some crafty surprises. We were shocked when an American opponent started building multiple particle cannons—a common tactic among flesh-and-blood players, but something Generals' previous AI would have never attempted. Also, enemies seem to build more wealth-generating buildings so they don't run out of money so easily.

The AI is still far from perfect. Foes often forget to

rebuild key buildings once you destroy them. And instead of massing forces for one giant knockout blow, the AI still only sends only a few units at a time to attack you. The new AI also seems to tax your Mac more than before. With three AI players on a big map, Zero Hour would occasionally crawl on our dual 2GHz Power Mac G5; we didn't have problems with the original game.

The bottom line. Zero Hour succeeds at improving Command & Conquer Generals' single-player experience, adding extras that give the game a new lease on life.—*Helmut Kobler*



Graphic performance has improved a bit, so you can enjoy your Spectre gunship attacking enemy Chinese forces.

results. There's also a new single-player campaign with 15 missions spread across the American, Chinese, and GLA factions, but these missions bored us. They emphasize puzzles over strategy, and cheesy TV-news cut scenes (which you can't interrupt or skip) do more to annoy than help the story.

The challenge. Zero Hour features an interesting new game mode called the Generals Challenge, which lets you choose from nine generals and fight the others one at a time on a series of predetermined maps; it's almost like a second campaign. Each general can use

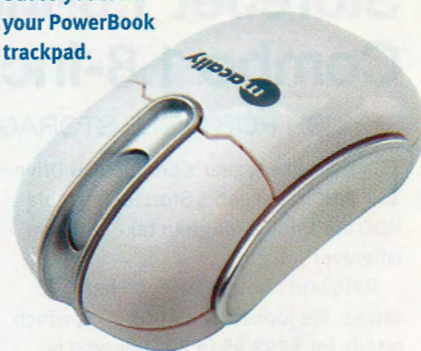
COMPANY: Aspyr
CONTACT: 888-212-7797,
www.aspyr.com
PRICE: \$29.99

REQUIREMENTS: 1GHz G4, Mac OS 10.2.8 or later, 256MB RAM, 32MB ATI Radeon 7500 or nVidia GeForce 2 MX video card or better, 2.8GB disk space, original Command & Conquer Generals game

GOOD NEWS: Great new units, buildings, and upgrades. More single-player variety.
BAD NEWS: Still can't battle against PC players online. AI could be better.

MacAddict RATED
GREAT

Saves you from your PowerBook trackpad.



BTMicro

PORTABLE BLUETOOTH MOUSE

Sure, the updated scrolling capabilities on the new PowerBooks (see *Reviews*, May/05, p38) help make using a trackpad more bearable, but it's hard to beat an actual mouse; that's why there are so many mini mice on the market. Now there's another mouse joining the fray: Macally's BTMicro, a Bluetooth mouse that runs on rechargeable batteries. While it may be too small for big hands, it's a nice lil' mouse that you can stash in your PowerBook case.

The BTMicro has a range of 33 feet, which is handy if you're in a meeting and need to do a Keynote presentation. It tracks smoothly, its buttons are solid, the scroll wheel works well, and its side grips make it easy to handle.

Unfortunately, the BTMouse is unusable while it's snapped into its recharging cradle. Other mini mice, such as logear's Bluetooth Mini Mouse (Apr/05, p44), charge their batteries via USB so you're still able to use them.

The bottom line. As long as you don't mind packing the power adapter (which is almost as big as the mouse) and cradle, the BTMicro is a good mouse to take on the road.—*Roman Loyola*

COMPANY: Macally
CONTACT: 626-338-8787,
www.macally.com
PRICE: \$49.99

REQUIREMENTS: Bluetooth-equipped Mac, Mac OS 10.2.8 or later

GOOD NEWS: Good design. On/off switch. Comes with rechargeable batteries.
BAD NEWS: Can't use mouse while it's charging.

MacAddict RATED
SOLID

CanoScan LiDE 500F

SLEEK, SILENT FLATBED SCANNER

The CanoScan LiDE 500F is a smart-looking scanner that scans documents, 35mm slides, and negatives at 2,400-by-4,800-dpi resolution. What's more, the 500F can do this without an external power supply—it draws power from your Mac through its USB connection (so if you're using a USB hub, make sure it's powered).

The front of the 500F has four programmable buttons. We particularly like the handy one-touch PDF button that turns a single- or multi-page document into a PDF; you can avoid using Adobe Acrobat or printing to a PDF file. The other buttons can be configured for scanning to Photoshop, optical character recognition, printing, or sending files via

email. You can associate each button with an application, so the chosen app takes over the scan as soon as the bundled ScanGear software has finished with it.

The 500F operates quietly and at an acceptable speed. A letter-sized color document at 300 dpi took about 20 seconds to preview and 43 seconds to fully scan.

Film scans. The 500F can scan only one frame of 35mm film at a time—it offers no method for batch scanning. Instead, you have to move the transparency adaptor to each frame manually. The system's not as sleek as what you get with some pricier flatbed scanners, but it's fine if you only scan

The little scanner that could—or, more accurately, *can*.

the occasional frame of 35mm film.

The LiDE 500F's scans tend to have a bit of a red cast, but otherwise its image quality is superb. Plenty of contrast and good colors make snappy scans out of even the dullest-looking documents.

The bottom line. The 500F is a great little scanner. It even has a built-in stand so you can stand it up vertically to free up more desk space. Nice.

—Mark Sparrow

COMPANY: Canon
CONTACT: 516-328-5000,
www.usa.canon.com
PRICE: \$129.99

REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped
Mac, Mac OS 10.2 or later

GOOD NEWS: Sleek and sexy. Quiet and fast. Includes film adaptor. Good one-touch buttons.

BAD NEWS: Only scans one 35mm frame at a time. Slight red cast to scans.

MacAddict RATED
GREAT

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO

Restore your LP records, tapes and DVs – Quickly & Easily!

SoundSoap 2
Leaves even the
filthiest audio
sparkling
clean!



- Buffs out scratches from vinyl LPs
- Wipes out hiss, hum, and other noise from tapes or DVs
- New *Enhance* leaves a fine polish
- Tough on grime, yet gentle on your signal



Peak 4 LE
The easiest way
to record, edit &
burn audio on
the Mac!

- Record or import audio into your Mac
- Edit and process your audio
- Create custom fade-ins and outs
- Assemble tracks in a playlist and burn your own audio CD!

Discover for yourself how easy and fun they are to use.
Check out the demo on the MacAddict CD or visit
www.bias-inc.com/downloads/freetrials

bias
sound creative

Chessmaster 9000

COMPREHENSIVE CHESS GAME

If you're really into chess, stop playing with Apple's bundled Chess app. Shell out the \$40 and get Chessmaster 9000—it's the chess game to get for the Mac. Chessmaster has tons of features for both beginners and experienced chess enthusiasts alike.

When you dive into the actual chess-match part of Chessmaster, you'll find yourself faced with an overwhelming interface full of separate windows, numbers, buttons, and chess symbols—



No, playing chess won't make you as loopy as Bobby Fischer. Well, it probably won't.

not to mention the chessboard itself. While everything on the screen is useful, Chessmaster thankfully allows you to close the features you don't want, open a different set of windows, or get rid of everything to display only the board. The default open windows include a shortcuts windows with one-click buttons for game analysis and move advice, a game status window that tracks each move and tells you how much time you have left to make your move, a window displaying captured pieces, a Visual Thinking window that lets you look at potential moves, and a Mentor Lines window that suggests a series of moves for you.

Chessmaster has 155 different personalities you can play against,

including 49 grand masters. (Gary Kasparov is not included, and we're sure it has nothing to do with his recent retirement.) Each personality has a distinct style, so playing against the AI never feels repetitive. You can also play with other Chessmaster players online.

Tutorials. For beginners, there's a helpful classroom mode that teaches you the basics, including what the pieces are and how they move, plus introductory strategy. There's even a discussion of openings (the first few moves of a chess match) and an excellent library where you can study historic matches of grandmasters—plus not-so-grand matches, including Dr. Frank Poole's match against HAL 9000 from 2001: A Space Odyssey.

There are lots of in-game tools to improve your game, too, including the aforementioned Mentor Lines, a Blunder Alert that tells you when the move you just made might be a bad one (and suggests alternatives), a move-advice option, an undo-move option, and a Game Analysis tool that examines your match and gives you feedback.

The only major quailm we have is that the help system isn't very helpful. When we selected Help, we expected to find instructions within the software on how to use its features; instead, Chessmaster just launched a PDF of the game's manual.

The bottom line. Yeah, we know that a free chess game came with your Mac. But for all you get with Chessmaster, the \$40 is well worth it.—*Roman Loyola*

COMPANY: Feral Interactive
CONTACT: +44 0 208 875 1375,
www.feralinteractive.com
PRICE: \$40

REQUIREMENTS: 700MHz G3, Mac OS 10.2 or later,
256MB RAM, 1.3GB disk space, 16MB graphics card,
QuickTime 6

MacAddict RATED
GREAT

GOOD NEWS: Great for beginners and experts. Tons of features.
BAD NEWS: Game layout can sometimes feel crowded and overwhelming. Help takes you to the PDF manual.



Radio Raheem wouldn't be caught dead with this boom box.

iBoom

CRAPPY IPOD BOOM BOX

Here's what we like about the iBoom: It lets you listen to your iPod through battery-powered speakers, so it's portable. From there, it's a rapid downward slide—we can't recommend the iBoom to anyone.

Scratchy, distorted waves of sonic mush emanate from the small speakers encased in the iBoom's cute—though poorly assembled—enclosure. The iBoom can get loud, but if you want bass, forget about it. Treble response is also weak—in general, iBoom's audio lacks clarity. There are no tone controls, and even with the volume control turned all the way down, the iBoom keeps playing audibly.

Foam feet. The iBoom's flimsy foam-rubber footie strips hardly inspire confidence in the device's durability; neither does the cheap-looking felt spacer that holds your iPod stable in the designated slot. A separate plastic spacer attachment lets you plug in an iPod mini, but forget about using an iPod shuffle.

The FM radio is fine, but we'll use Tivoli's less-expensive Audio iPal (Nov/04, p50)—it tunes in AM, too. Also, early versions of the iBoom have electrical problems—if you leave the batteries in the unit while the power cord is plugged into the wall, the batteries may leak acid and perhaps explode (iBoom, indeed). Later generations of iBoom have fixed this problem.

The bottom line. We'll skip the iBoom. A better battery-powered iPod boom box is sure to come along.—*David Biedny*

COMPANY: Digital Lifestyle Outfitters
CONTACT: 866-800-4763, Third- or fourth-generation iPod or iPod mini
www.dlirect.com
PRICE: \$149
REQUIREMENTS:

GOOD NEWS: Charges iPod if plugged into AC outlet.
BAD NEWS: Lousy sound. Bad volume controls. Batteries may leak in early versions.
MacAddict RATED
LOUSY

Solio

INGENIOUS IPOD CHARGER

Our iPods now have a near-endless supply of power thanks to Solio, a portable solar-powered iPod battery charger. Solio itself contains a replaceable Lithium Ion battery that you charge with sunlight or through a power-outlet connection. After Solio's battery is charged, you simply attach it to your iPod and your iPod battery will recharge.

When folded, Solio measures 4.72 by 2.56 by 1.34 inches. When unfolded, Solio is like a flower in bloom, with solar panels on each of the three petals. It's rather fetching in a geeky way, and you can use the included suction-cup mount that fits in Solio's center hole to mount the device on a window. Our only gripe about the design is that when

folded, one of the solar panels remains exposed—we'd hate to scratch it up.

Sun power. Better Energy Systems says it takes eight to 10 hours to fully charge Solio; it took us about eight hours. When you press Solio's nifty indicator light, it blinks to relay the Solio's power capacity by blinking. Each blink represents a 25-percent increment; one blink means 25 percent, two blinks mean 50 percent, and so on.

To charge your iPod, you connect Solio to the iPod's Dock connector

using the included charging cord. (Unfortunately, the iPod-cable connector isn't labeled, so make sure to check that its slotted self matches Solio's input port when you try to connect.) Our testing showed that it takes about the same amount of time to fully charge your iPod with Solio as it does with a Dock. You can also leave Solio open and in the sun while charging your iPod to keep your Solio fully powered.

The bottom line. Solio is a near-perfect iPod companion. You won't be caught with a lifeless iPod again.
—Roman Loyola



Sunny delight
for your iPod.



COMPANY: Better Energy Systems
CONTACT: +44 0 870 607 6546,
www.solio.com
PRICE: \$99.95

REQUIREMENTS:
iPod, sunlight

GOOD NEWS: Excellent design. Can also charge from outlet power.
BAD NEWS: Folded compact form still leaves a solar panel exposed. iPod-cable connector lacks labeling for proper insertion.

MacAddict RATED
AWESOME

Drive Genius

COMPLETE DISK-UTILITY SOFTWARE

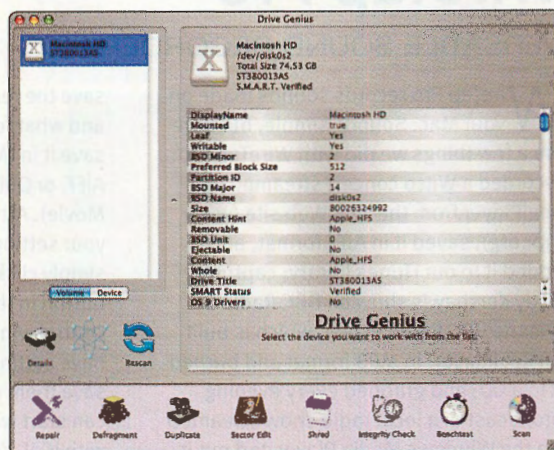
Prosoft's Drive Genius lives up to its name by providing comprehensive disk-repair tools and performance-enhancing defragmentation routines to keep your Mac's drive in tip-top condition.

Drive Genius's brushed-metal interface features three separate panes. Eight tools lie along the bottom of the interface, ranging from the straightforward Repair and Defragment options to the less-useful (but far more dangerous) Sector Edit, a tool that performs surgery by directly editing disk data. If you're squeamish, stay away from that particular digital scalpel.

More tools. Other tools include a useful Duplicate feature that can make a bootable clone of your hard drive. Because Duplicate does a bit-for-bit copy, it's a lot faster than using

Finder operations. The Shred function overwrites everything on your hard drive with gibberish, using an overwrite standard more rigorous than what the Pentagon demands. Integrity, Benchtest, and Scan tools provide ancillary services by testing the health of your hard drive. Benchtest tells you how fast and efficient your drive is, and Scan marks faulty physical sectors.

If you use Drive Genius to maintain a secondary drive, you can run Drive Genius from your startup disk; but if you want to do any repair work or operations on the startup disk, you need to boot from the Drive



Reliable repair, defragmentation, duplication—and so on, and so on, and so on.

Genius CD. Also, there's no RAID support.

The bottom line. Drive Genius deserves a space in your Mac toolkit.
—Mark Sparrow



COMPANY: Prosoft Engineering
CONTACT: 925-426-6100,
www.prosofteng.com
PRICE: \$99 (single-user license), \$249

(unlimited-user license)
REQUIREMENTS:
Mac OS 10.2 or later

GOOD NEWS: Bootable CD. Includes defrag routines. Nondestructive repartitioning. Handles all non-RAID drives. Fixes disk permissions.
BAD NEWS: Must boot from CD to work on startup disk.

MacAddict RATED
AWESOME

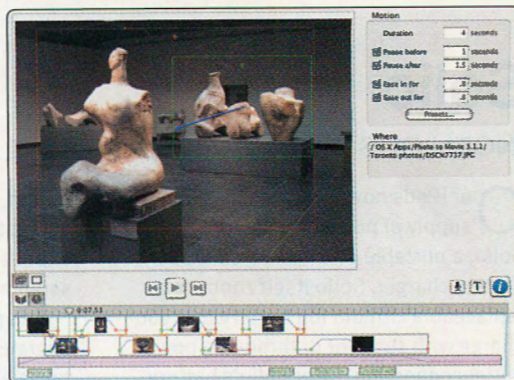
Photo to Movie 3.2

HELPFUL PHOTO-EFFECTS SOFTWARE

When we last checked out Photo to Movie (●●●●● Jun/03, p53), we found a slick app that could pan and zoom over still photos, priming them for digital video—a technique called the Ken Burns effect. The latest PtM remains true to its origins but adds many new features. Big deal? Absolutely.

You can now give your photos more context with PtM's new title support; to place a title, simply drag it to your photo. You can also access QuickTime transitions such as Crossfade, Zoom, and Iris. Adding an audio file is as simple as dragging and dropping. Need narration? Record directly into PtM, fine-tune the sound's timing within the timeline, and adjust the volume. PtM also has a media browser for iPhoto and iTunes.

iMovie companion. If you're wondering why you'd need Photo to Movie when both iMovie and iPhoto slideshows offer Ken Burns effects, Photo to Movie does have its advantages, such as more complex, movie-like controls; for example, you can start a pan from the left side, stop at the right side, zoom in, pause, zoom out, and then pan back to the left. In iMovie and iPhoto, each step is a separate effect, so you'd have to kludge together multiple clips or multiple copies of the same photo in order to get the same result. Even though you may not be able to see the difference in the final output, you'll appreciate PtM's ease of use. You can then use Photo to Movie's



There's more to Photo to Movie than just pans and zooms.

output in iMovie (or Final Cut) to reap superior production values.

What's missing? You can't layer titles or sound; so you can't, for example, record narration over a soundtrack unless you do so in another app.

The bottom line. Photo to Movie makes you a master of the Ken Burns effect.—Tom Lassiter



COMPANY: LQ Graphics
CONTACT: <http://lqgraphics.com>
PRICE: \$49.95

REQUIREMENTS: 400MHz
G4, Mac OS 10.2 or later,
256MB RAM

GOOD NEWS: Easy to use. More flexible than iMovie's Ken Burns effect.
BAD NEWS: No support for layers in titles or audio.

MacAddict RATED
●●●●●
GREAT

WireTap Pro

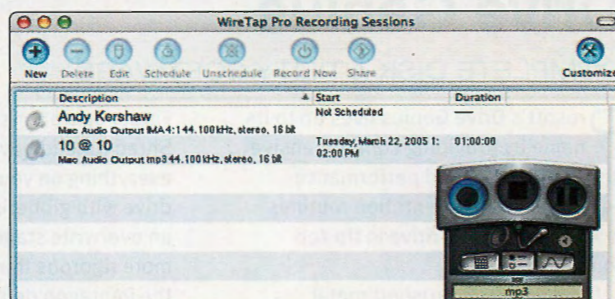
VERSATILE SOUND RECORDER

WireTap Pro records sounds made on your Mac. Sounds simple, but here are a few things we did with WireTap Pro: recorded a Wilco concert streamed via RealPlayer from the NPR Web site (www.npr.org), saved it in AIFF format, and added it to our iTunes library; captured Andy Kershaw's show on BBC Radio 3 (via the BBC Radio Player, which is built on RealPlayer) in MP3 format and burned it to a CD; and grabbed every evening broadcast of a local radio show streamed via the Windows Media Player and put it on an iPod for drive-time listening.

A slew of settings. WireTap Pro's Preferences and Audio Settings let you pick a sound source (Mac Audio Output for recording sounds from your Mac, or Microphone/Line Input for recording via mic or digitizing your old vinyl), where to

save the recording, and what format to save it in (MP3, AAC, AIFF, or QuickTime Movie). After choosing your settings, you simply click the Record button in the floating control window. If you have settings you want to reuse, you can save them as Recording Sessions that you can start with a single click or schedule with iCal. You can even have a Session open a Web site or run an AppleScript before or after recording.

The only problem we ran into is that WireTap Pro captures every sound your Mac makes. So be careful how you use your Mac while it's recording; it's a bit disorienting to hear an alert beep



Don't miss your favorite streaming radio—use WireTap Pro to record it and listen to it later!

broadcast over your car stereo. Also, while changing System Preferences > Sound > Output Volume doesn't change the volume of the recording, changing the output volume of the app you're recording from does—we had to rerecord a concert after making that mistake.

The bottom line. If you listen to audio streams on your Mac that you wish you could hear again, WireTap Pro will save them for posterity.—Jake Widman



COMPANY: Ambrosia Software
CONTACT: 585-325-1910,
www.ambrosiasw.com
PRICE: \$19.99

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 10.2
or later

GOOD NEWS: Unobtrusive and capable. Captures and saves any sound your Mac can make.
BAD NEWS: Can't record sounds from only a specified app.

MacAddict RATED
●●●●●
GREAT

Visual Thesaurus 3

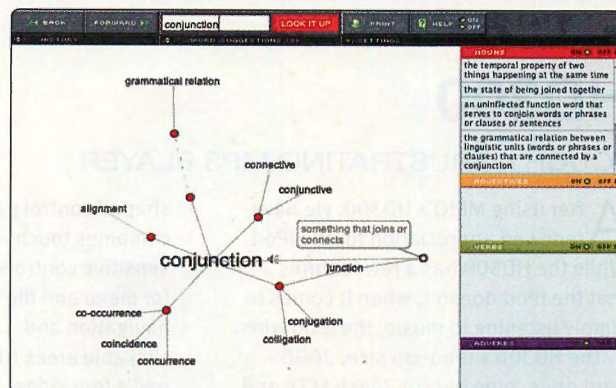
MERITORIOUS WORD-REFERENCE APP

We liked Visual Thesaurus 2.0 (Oct/03, p59), but now that we've seen VT3, we're not sure how we lived without some of its new features. For example, VT3 now includes audio pronunciations—click the audio icon next to a word to hear it pronounced in either American or right-honourable British English. You can also display both American and British spellings.

Our faves. The new spelling checker saved us from referring to a dictionary, and the new Back and Forward navigation buttons quickly returned us to home base after capricious linguistic adventuring. Results for versatile words such as *run* tended to overrun our screen, but we were able to automatically narrow our search of word relationships and even

hide the meanings bar (Command-M) to open up more space.

Other attributes that enhanced our engrossment: 26 preset key commands, plus four new (albeit initially enigmatic) word relationships. Our persnickety side appreciated proper nouns being properly capitalized (this wasn't the case in version 2) and the addition of more proper nouns. Some words and meanings recently added to the *Oxford English Dictionary* (such as *mongo*, meaning "useful items from the trash") didn't make the 145,000-word cut, but names and terms of greater significance,



Find the function at conjunction junction.

such as *Mumbai*, did.

VT3 is not perfect. History, Word Suggestions, and Settings menus are awkward and too narrow to easily access with your cursor; and the Settings panel expands and retracts without alacrity.

The bottom line. Visual Thesaurus 3 is one of the most stylish, truly useful reference tools we've encountered.

—Jennifer Morgan



COMPANY: Thinkmap

CONTACT: 212-285-8600,

www.visualthesaurus.com

PRICE: \$29.95 (Desktop), \$19.95 per year (Online)

REQUIREMENTS:

Mac OS X or later, 128MB

RAM, 100MB disk space

GOOD NEWS: New spelling checker includes alternate spelling suggestions. Audio pronunciation. Keyboard shortcuts.

BAD NEWS: Some awkward interface elements.

MacAddict RATED



GREAT

iFlicks 1.1

iTUNES-LIKE MOVIE ORGANIZER

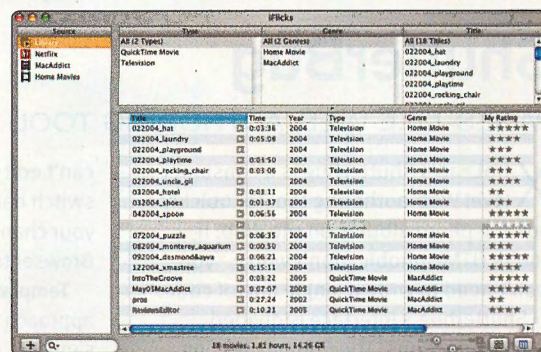
While iFlicks is a capable tool for viewing your video files, you won't necessarily want to use it as a production assistant for your iMovie or Final Cut projects. Think of it more as iTunes for the video clips on your hard drive.

iFlicks maintains a library of your video files. You add videos by dragging your video files into iFlicks. iFlicks then copies or moves your videos to its own iFlicks video folder; it can also track an alias if you want to store the video in another location. You configure iFlicks' settings in a very iTunes-like (iTunesian?) way, making column categories and managing preferences for you iFlicks folder and default video players.

Can't capture. iFlicks is designed with existing digitized video in mind; there are no capturing tools. You can watch

a video from within iFlicks by double-clicking a clip. If the clip has been digitized using a codec other than QuickTime (such as Windows Media), you need to have a compatible player installed. iFlicks will launch that player whenever it's needed.

A video clip's vital statistics are presented in an iTunes-like (iTunesque?) interface, which can display information about a clip's play length, year, genre, and more. You can create Collections, which are like iTunes playlists, as well as Smart Collections that automatically add clips based on your criteria. Unfortunately, unlike iTunes, you can't select a set of clips and edit common information in a



It's iTunes—but for video.

single dialog.

Since there's no iFlicks Movie Store, iFlicks grants you access to Netflix. iFlicks uses your RSS feed from Netflix to display your queue, but you have to go to the Netflix Web site to actually manage your queue.

The bottom line. For basic video management, iFlicks is good enough.

—Roman Loyola



COMPANY: Helixent Technologies

CONTACT: www.helixent.com

PRICE: \$29.95

REQUIREMENTS:

Mac OS 10.3 or later

GOOD NEWS: iTunes-like interface is easy to use. Netflix organizer is helpful to Netflix members.

BAD NEWS: Can't edit common info of multiple files at one time. No video-capture capability. No interaction with iLife apps.

MacAddict RATED



SOLID

HD300

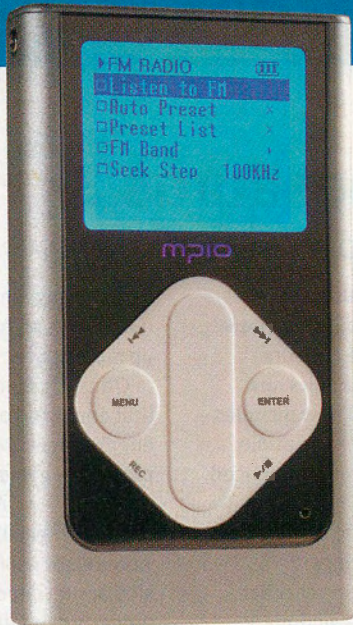
TOUCHY, FRUSTRATING MP3 PLAYER

After using MPIO's HD300, we have renewed appreciation for the iPod. While the HD300 has a few features that the iPod doesn't, when it comes to simply listening to music, the iPod wins. The HD300's iPod-ian size, 20GB hard drive, blue backlit 2-inch LCD, and 16-hour rechargeable battery stack up nicely against the iPod. Like many non-Apple digital music players, the HD300 ups the ante with an FM tuner and a nifty recorder capable of capturing MP3 audio from the tuner, its built-in microphone, or an external device connected to the HD300's headphone jack. The recorder works well; sound is clear and crisp, and we like being able to set the recording bit rate from 96 to 192 Kbps.

Thumb slide. The HD300's diamond-

shaped control pad combines touch-sensitive controls for menu and file navigation and clickable areas (the pad's four sides) for play/pause, forward/back, and record functions. The center of the pad is a thumb-scroll strip for navigation. However, both of the HD300s we looked at had buttons that didn't respond consistently.

There's also no Mac version of MPIO Manager, the software utility needed to create playlists based on ID3 tags, à



Clickwheel? Yes. Thumb-scroll strip? Maybe.

la iTunes (songs are drag-copied over to the HD300 via USB). Without playlists, browsing by genre, artist, album, or title is completely nonfunctional. Don't have a PC? You're stuck rummaging through your entire music collection for those tracks you're dying to hear. Not good.

The bottom line.

The HD300 is a bit lighter on your pocketbook than a 20GB iPod, but you'll be better off spending the extra cash to get Apple's offering.—*Gil Loyola*



COMPANY: MPIO
CONTACT: 858-554-1300,
www.mpio.com
PRICE: \$279.99

REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped Mac, Mac OS 9.2 or X or later

GOOD NEWS: FM tuner. Audio recorder.
BAD NEWS: Unresponsive touch controls. Windows-only utility.

MacAddict RATED
●●●●●
SO-SO

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK WADEO

ShutterBug

PAGES-LIKE WEB-AUTHORING TOOL

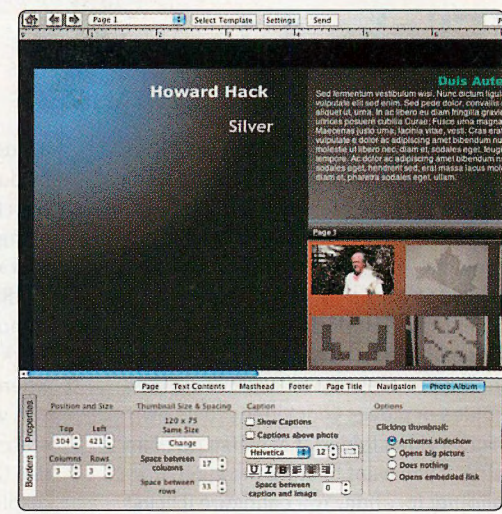
XtraLean's ShutterBug is a consumer-level Web-authoring tool for quickly posting photo albums on the Web. If you're HTML-phobic, don't worry—you won't need to write a single line of code.

Shutterbug's interface is divided into two sections. The Content section is where you write your page title and description, add or delete pages, and add a copyright watermark. It's also where you assemble your images by dragging them from wherever they are stored—you can even drag a picture directly from iPhoto into ShutterBug. The Browser section lets you format and preview your Web site. Both sections are easy to navigate and understand, but the way it handles text is annoying. When you're in the Browser section, you

can't edit your text; you have to switch back to Content to make your changes, then switch back to Browser to preview the site.

Templates. ShutterBug's approach to page design is similar to Apple's Pages. You can choose from the 16 bundled templates or download more from <http://support.xtralean.com> and import them into ShutterBug. Just don't trash the downloaded file—you can't add an imported template to ShutterBug's template library. Annoying.

You can also build templates yourself, but XtraLean doesn't supply help documentation yet (the company says it's coming soon). In the meantime, check



Basic tools for basic Web photo albums.

XtraLean's forums for tips and tricks.

The bottom line. ShutterBug makes creating a Web photo album easy as pie—without putting a big dent in your wallet.—*Roman Loyola*



COMPANY: XtraLean Software
CONTACT: www.xtralean.com
PRICE: \$34

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 10.3.4 or later, Web host for your Web site

GOOD NEWS: Easy to use. Good online support forums.
BAD NEWS: Needs more documentation. Can't add templates to library.

MacAddict RATED
●●●●●
SOLID

Burning Monkey Mahjong 2

MERRY MAHJONG GAME

Sick of solitaire? Try some solitary mahjong—Burning Monkey Mahjong 2 puts a humorous twist on this simple, calming, and addictive game.

Mahjong involves pairing and removing tiles from a pile. The goal is to make the entire stack of tiles disappear in as few moves and as little time as possible. To make tiles disappear, you must click two identical ones; however, if a tile is sitting underneath or between two tiles on the left and right, you can't remove it until you remove the obstructing tiles.

One of the coolest features of Burning Monkey Mahjong 2 is its 3D-ness—you can activate a 3D mode that causes the game board to tilt as you move your mouse, allowing you to see your tile stack from different perspectives and

get a sense of depth. Although the constant movement of the board can be annoying, we ultimately found this feature helpful. There were plenty of times we couldn't find matching pairs just by looking at the board straight on; but when we tilted it, we were able to spot pairs we couldn't before.

Variety. Mahjong Solitaire offers different varieties of gameplay and five difficulty levels. Other games include Tile Pickup, where the goal is to pick up all the tiles as fast as possible—no matching required—and Memory, which is like Concentration. Although the extra games are welcome, they're all a bit lackluster. There are also more than 70 ways the tiles can be stacked, aside



The tilting board lets you look at your tiles in a whole new way.

from the traditional pyramid layout.

Burning Monkey Mahjong 2 offers some silly humor as well. Different monkey characters hang out in the corners and pipe in with cornball quips such as, "What do you get when you cross a cow and some ducks? Milk and quackers!" Ha!

The bottom line. Burning Monkey Mahjong is a cheerful game that will have you playing longer than you expect.—Cathy Lu



COMPANY: Freeverse
CONTACT: 212-929-3549,
www.freeverse.com
PRICE: \$24.95

REQUIREMENTS: Mac OS 10.2.8
or later, 64MB RAM, 60MB disk
space, 16MB VRAM

GOOD NEWS: Simple yet fun. Includes a good dose of humor.
BAD NEWS: Game variations are boring. Tilting game board can
get annoying.

MacAddict RATED



SOLID

MicFlex

BENDABLE MICROPHONE

MacMice's MicFlex is a flexible microphone that connects to your Mac via USB. It's great for iChat AV and acceptable for casual GarageBand recording.

The MicFlex extends 18 inches from its solid, heavy base—you have lots of freedom to position the MicFlex just the way you want it. The flexible tubing is strong and can take lots of twists and turns without kinking. Plus, it comes with a 5-foot USB cable.

The MicFlex uses a 16-bit, 48KHz audio-conversion circuit. We found the sound quality to be quite good; though if you're recording GarageBand audio, you'll need to keep ambient noise to a minimum to make sure you get the best sound for your song.

The bottom line. The MicFlex isn't a studio-quality piece of recording equipment, but for forty bucks, you get a pretty darn good microphone.—Roman Loyola

A mic you
can step up to.

COMPANY: MacMice
CONTACT: 615-822-9270, www.macmice.com
PRICE: \$39.99

REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped Mac,
Mac OS 9.1 to 9.x or 10.1 or later

GOOD NEWS: Solid base. Bendable yet firm
flex arm.
BAD NEWS: Not a replacement for a studio-
quality microphone.

MacAddict RATED



SOLID

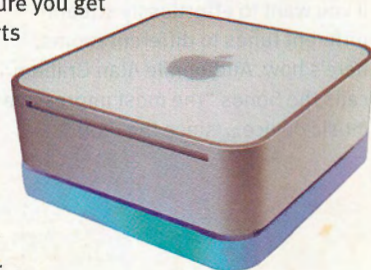
mini Skirt: glo

SOOTHING MAC MINI STAND

The mini Skirt: glo is a stand for the Mac mini that provides 0.75-inches of lift. It also emits a blue or white glow (depending on which model you buy) when you plug it into your USB port—and that's about it.

Since the Skirt is USB powered, you're left with a single USB port on your mini for your peripherals. If you supplement that with a USB hub, make sure you get a powered one—the USB ports on your keyboard don't provide enough power for some hardware, such as many flash-based thumb drives.

The bottom line. We can't think of any practical use for the Skirt, but it will give your Mac mini that special glow.—Roman Loyola



Your Mac mini wants a glowing booster seat.

COMPANY: Plasticsmith
CONTACT: 800-394-3774,
www.plasticsmith.com

PRICE: \$39.95
REQUIREMENTS: USB-equipped Mac mini

GOOD NEWS: Gives your Mac mini a
soothing glow.
BAD NEWS: No USB hub to replace
the USB port it occupies.

MacAddict RATED



SOLID

the HotList

THE BEST OF THE BEST FROM RECENT REVIEWS

SHOPPING?
HERE'S WHAT WE
RECOMMEND

NEW THIS MONTH



Aspyr Doom 3

Inveterate gamer Niko Coucouvanis calls the terrifying and technologically imposing Doom 3 "hands-down the best-looking game we've ever played."



Sonos Digital Music System

If you want to effortlessly stream different tunes to different rooms, here's how. Audiophile Alan Graham calls the Sonos "the most impressive music device ... since the iPod."

Sony DRX-710UL-T

The latest iMacs and Power Macs have double-layer DVD burners—but if you're not upgrading, follow Reviews Editor Roman Loyola's advice and get "a significant speed boost" from this one.



SOFTWARE

AUDIO

Ableton Live 4	\$499.00	Jan/05, p43	This top real-time sequencer now has improved MIDI powers.
Bias SoundSoap Pro	\$599.00	Jan/05, p42	Got noise in your video? Here's the app to clean it up.
Native Instruments Reaktor 4	\$559.00	Jun/04, p56	If you can imagine a sound, you can create it with this synth.

GAMES

Aspyr Call of Duty	\$49.99	Sep/04, p52	This shooter has tons of action, detailed locales, and fun.
Aspyr Doom 3	\$49.99	Jun/05, p48	Hellish, scary fun—but not for the faint of hardware.
Blizzard World of Warcraft	\$49.99	Apr/05, p40	This rich online role-playing game is more addictive than nicotine.
MacSoft Halo: Combat Evolved	\$49.99	Mar/04, p38	It's as awesome as your Xbox buddies say it is.
MacSoft Unreal Tournament 2004	\$39.95	Jun/04, p48	The best first-person shooter adds new vehicles and weapons.

GRAPHICS & LAYOUT

Adobe InDesign CS	\$699.00	Feb/04, p46	More features and easier navigation make layout a snap.
Adobe Photoshop CS	\$649.00	Feb/04, p44	Just when you thought Photoshop couldn't get better, it did.
Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0	\$89.99	Mar/05, p36	Adobe's affordable image editor gets a significant upgrade.
Corel Painter IX	\$429.00	Feb/05, p38	This natural-media champ is now faster and more capable.
Macromedia Dreamweaver MX 2004	\$399.00	Jan/04, p48	Our favorite Web-design tool adds improved CSS support.
Strata 3D CX	\$695.00	Dec/04, p43	Whether you're a 3D newbie or expert, this app's for you.

PRODUCTIVITY & UTILITIES

Bare Bones Software BBEdit 8.0	\$199.00	Jan/05, p36	By far the most powerful text editor money can buy.
FileMaker Pro 7	\$299.00	Jul/04, p46	A complete rewrite vaults this database into the big leagues.
Microsoft Office 2004	\$399.00	Aug/04, p42	Enhancements to every app add up to a worthy upgrade.

VIDEO & ANIMATION

Adobe After Effects 6.5	\$699.00	Sep/04, p46	This upgrade is strong enough to be called version 7.
Vidvox Grid2	\$75.00	Feb/05, p39	Join the VJ ranks with this MIDI-capable video-mixing software.

HARDWARE

ACCESSORIES

Apple AirPort Express	\$129.00	Oct/04, p48	This portable wireless router will stream your iTunes music.
Canary Wireless HS10	\$59.95	Apr/05, p44	This device finds hotspots and reports on network status.
palmOne Treo 650	\$599.00	May/05, p44	It's the best PDA-and-cell-phone combination on the market.

AUDIO & VIDEO

Canon Optura Xi	\$999.00	Aug/04, p38	High-end features distinguish this mid-priced camcorder.
Native Instruments Guitar Rig	\$499.00	Nov/04, p40	Killer software plus a sturdy stomp box will wow any guitarist.
Sonos Digital Music System	\$1,199.00	Jun/05, p36	Pricey, yes—but it's the best music streamer you can buy.
Tivoli Audio iPal	\$129.99	Nov/04, p50	You won't believe the sound of this compact radio and speaker.

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Canon PowerShot A85	\$299.99	Mar/05, p40	This 4-megapixel point-and-shoot beauty takes great pictures.
Nikon D70 Digital SLR	\$1,299.00	Jul/04, p50	It's as close to perfect as any digital SLR camera we've seen.

PRINTERS

Canon i560	\$89.99	Sep/04, p28	Ninety bucks can buy an exceptionally capable photo printer.
Canon i860	\$119.99	Sep/04, p29	This printer's Photo Black cartridge makes color photos pop.
Canon i900D	\$199.99	Sep/04, p31	Gorgeous prints, CD printing, color-LCD editing—all good stuff.

SCANNERS

Epson Perfection 2580	\$149.00	Oct/04, p37	This flatbed handles both reflective and film scans with ease.
Epson Perfection 4180	\$199.99	Oct/04, p39	Superior image quality earns this scanner our recommendation.
Microtek ScanMaker i320	\$119.99	Oct/04, p35	Killer photo-rescue software comes with this affordable unit.

STORAGE

ILY SlimDVDup	\$699.00	Apr/05, p45	Quickly duplicate CDs and DVDs without tying up your Mac.
LaCie Big Disk Extreme 500GB	\$429.00	Aug/04, p55	Cutting-edge technology provides cutting-edge performance.
LaCie d2 DVD±RW Double Layer	\$179.00	Feb/05, p48	Cram 8.5GB of data onto DVDs with this speedy burner.
OWC Mercury Pro DVD-/+RW	\$159.99	Aug/04, p60	This speedy drive includes everything you need to start burning.
Sony DRX-710UL-T	\$229.95	Jun/05, p46	This double-layer burner has scorching single-layer performance.
WiebeTech G5Jam 1TB	\$1,299.95	Aug/04, p59	This internal 4-drive RAID makes a Power Mac G5 scream.
WiebeTech TrayDock	\$169.95	May/05, p49	This slick hard-drive enclosure provides the ultimate in flexibility.

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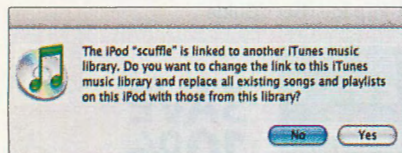


ask us

GET YOUR OWN

Does an iPod shuffle work on multiple computers like a regular iPod does?

No, the iPod shuffle is much more single-Mac oriented than other iPods. After filling a shuffle with songs from one Mac, plugging that shuffle into any other Mac pops up a dialog offering to wipe out the shuffle's songs and fill it from the current Mac—you can't browse or play the shuffle-bound songs via iTunes as you can with other iPods that you've set up for manual music management. This also means you can't plug your shuffle into a buddy's Mac to add some of his tunes to your collection, but if you've enabled the shuffle's disk mode (iTunes > Preferences), it'll mount on strange Macs as a USB storage volume.



iTunes will either assimilate your shuffle or ignore it completely.

MACLESS SHUFFLE

I bought an iPod shuffle for a friend who doesn't own a computer (don't ask!). Is there a way that she can keep it charged without having access to a Mac's USB port?

Yes there is, and it comes from our friends at Apple (www.apple.com). Plug your shuffle into an iPod USB Power Adapter (\$29), and then plug the adapter into any wall outlet. Sorry, but we have to ask: You bought her that weird Sexohol



LP-on-a-shuffle (www.sexohol.com), didn't you? Freak.

You'll never want to get these two off your shuffle.

MINI MONITORS

Can I connect a new Mac mini to my old Performa monitor? How about a TV?

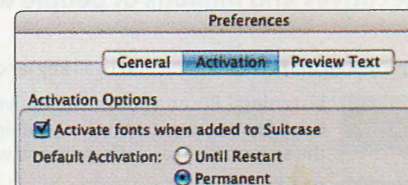
The Mac mini supports more video options than you might expect. Out of the box, you can plug any standard DVI display right into it, or you can use the supplied adapter with a VGA display. But wait, there's more: Get an Apple DVI to Video Adapter (\$19, www.apple.com) to connect a Mac mini to a TV or overhead projector. If you have one of last year's Cinema Displays with an ADC connector, you'll need the Apple DVI to ADC Display Adapter (\$99, www.apple.com). Lastly, if you wish to use an old Apple CRT like the ones that came with most Performa models, you'll need a

Mac DB-15 male to HD-15 female VGA adapter, which Griffin Technology sells under the name Mac Connect (\$16, www.griffintechology.com).

BEFUDDLED FONTS

When I use Safari to view certain Web pages, the text becomes garbled, generating characters that resemble some long-lost language. What gives, and what can I do?

This is most often caused when Safari can't find the appropriate font and tries to render the text with incorrect font and character information. This happens most frequently when you use a font manager such as Suitcase (\$99.95, www.extensis.com) to keep your fonts in order. Such font-managing utilities can automatically activate fonts that the System and Safari are already using, which can lead to font corruption and garbled text. The easiest remedy is to disable automatic activation (in Suitcase, go to Suitcase > Preferences > Activation). Garbled text can also indicate that your font cache has become corrupt. To fix this corruption, download and install Font Finagler (\$10, shareware, <http://homepage.mac.com/mdouma46/fcache/fcache.html>).



We don't need no steinking auto-activation.

quick answers

MAÑANA, BANANA

How do I type an ñ, señor?

You could fire up the Character Palette (check Show Input Menu In Menu Bar in System Preferences > International > Input Menu). Alternately, press Option-N then N to create an ñ. Option-E then O makes an ó; Option-E then E makes an é.

CLICK RIGHT

What's this "right-click" mouse function my peecce pals are always gloating about?

Your power-mousing friends are talking about the handy pop-up menu summoned by clicking a button on the right side of a PC mouse. Mac OS has had a similar trick—the Contextual Menu—since Mac OS 8, though you access it by holding down the Control key while clicking. Bonus: Every multibutton mouse we've tried with Mac OS X brings up the Contextual Menu when you right-click.



This is a right, er, Control-click.

.MOV MADNESS

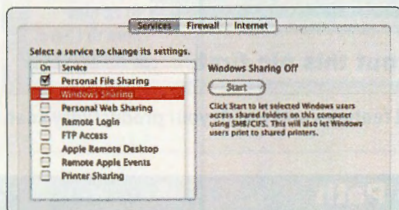
I can't view movies in Safari, though I used to be able to. What's up with that?

Among the many reasons that this could happen, the most common is that you have your plug-ins disabled in Safari.

FEED YOUR PC

I have a Mac and a PC both connected to the Internet with a cable modem and router. How do I swap files between the two computers?

If you can figure out how to set up file sharing on your PC (consult your PC's Help & Support Center via the Start menu), connecting from a Mac running OS X is simple. Choose Go > Connect To Server from the Finder's menu bar, and then click the Browse button. If you've set up the PC correctly, you will see an icon representing it in the resulting Network window. Double-click the icon and enter your PC's login information, and then help yourself to the files. The reverse is also possible; open System Preferences > Sharing and check the box next to Windows Sharing. Use your regular Mac OS X user name and password to log in from your PC's Network Neighborhood.



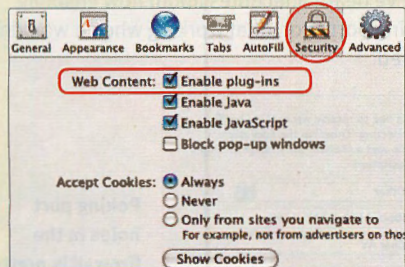
PCs can access your Mac's files.

ENTRY-LEVEL AUDIO

What's the best microphone for recording music and singing with GarageBand?

If you're serious about your sound, you'll want two mics: one for vocals and one for instruments. Two of our favorites come from Shure: The SM57 Instrument Microphone (\$158, www.shure.com) and the SM58 Vocal Microphone (\$188).

QuickTime movies require a plug-in in order to work. Open Safari > Preferences, select the Security tab, and make sure the Enable Plug-ins check box is checked.



Safari plug-ins only work if they're enabled.

UNIX UNIVERSITY

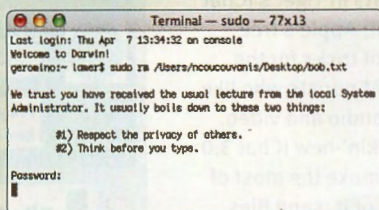


SU IS AS SUDO DOES

What is the difference between su and sudo?

Mac OS X's Unix core is all about multiple users and their individual privileges and permissions to use files, services, applications—pretty much anything on your Mac. As a user on a Mac, you have full rights to your documents, settings, and everything in your user (Home) directory, but you may not have permission to change settings or access files that are owned by other users or by the system itself. Su and sudo are your master keys to accessing those

pesky user permissions; su stands for “substitute user identity,” so if you open a Terminal window (/Applications/Utilities) and type **su root**, then enter the root password at the prompt, you get carte blanche to execute any command—no matter how disrespectful to other users or detrimental to the system. Sudo is like a shortcut to su. Typing sudo before another Unix command invokes the root user by default, prompts you for an administrator password, and executes the command directly. You can also modify sudo to invoke one of the Mac's other users. Type **sudo -u rmyslewski**, for example, and you can execute commands as user rmyslewski—but you'll also need his password. In most cases, sudo is quicker and easier (and, naturally, more dangerous), but in either case, use extreme caution.



Don't let the absolute power of root corrupt your morals.

Both are solidly built and reasonably priced. Before you put away your wallet, however, be prepared to shell out for another key piece of gear: a pre-amp to boost your mic up to a suitable level for your Mac to record. M-Audio's two-channel Audio Buddy (\$119.95, www.m-audio.com) is a fine choice. If you haven't guessed, audio recording can get very expensive very quickly—the mics and pre-amp mentioned here are relatively inexpensive.

THREADED MAIL

I use Apple's Mail program to access my email; how can I view the messages in related groups?

This feature of Mail in Mac OS 10.3 (Panther) and later is called threading, and it is indeed very useful. To enable this feature in Mail, choose View > Organize By Thread. Mail will now show your messages grouped by threads with a small disclosure triangle on the left side to open and close the threads.

SLUMMING IT

Is it possible to connect to a PC from my Mac and actually control the PC like I control my Mac?

Believe it or not, this capability is built into Windows, and it even works from a Mac. To make a PC submit to your Mac's will, first download a copy of Microsoft's Remote Desktop Connection Client for Mac (free, www.microsoft.com/mac; just click the Other Products link on the left). This software will let you access a networked PC running Windows XP Pro or Windows 2000 Server and load its desktop on your Mac's, giving you full access to the PC's applications, documents, images, movies—everything. Come on, show that PC who's boss!

Buz is a graphic designer living in Florida. He has been a devoted Mac user for over 10 years and has worked for both Apple and Power Computing.

Submit technical questions or helpful tips directly via email (askus@macaddict.com) or c/o MacAddict, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005.

Take Charge of iChat

EASY

by Dan Pourhadi

WHAT YOU NEED

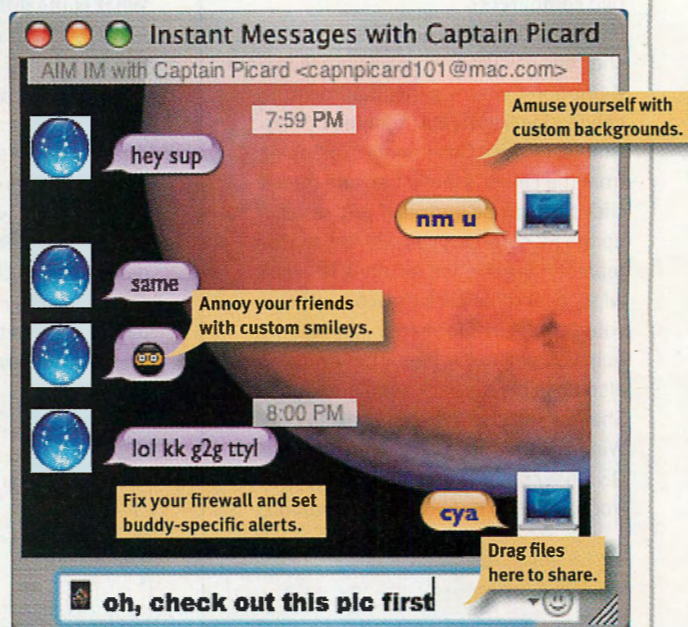
Mac OS 10.3 or later (\$129, www.apple.com)

iChat 2.1 or later

iChat account (free, www.mac.com), .Mac account (\$99 per year, www.mac.com), or AIM screen name (free, www.aim.com)

Friends (optional, but recommended)

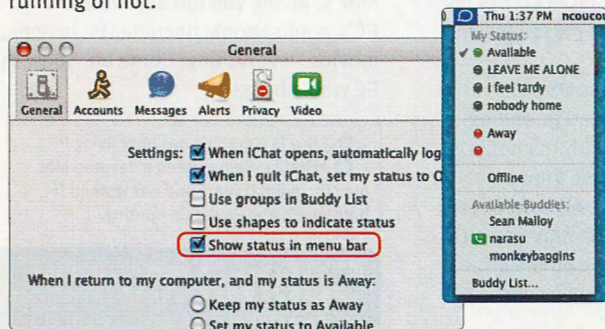
So you lack the bandwidth (or the beauty) to avail yourself of the multiparty video chats in Tiger's iChat (see "Taming Tiger," p12). Don't fret; Apple's free instant-messaging app has plenty of tricks for the iSightless, the bandwidth challenged, and IM purists who like their chat light, quick, and free of intrusive audio and video noise. Whether you're using the brand-spankin'-new iChat 3.0 or good ol' iChat 2.1, we'll show you how to make the most of your chat sessions—customize the heck out of it, send files and screenshots, troubleshoot connection problems, and tailor custom alerts for all your iChat buddies.



Unlock iChat's advanced features and watch your productivity soar.

1 Set Up and Status, Gladys

If you're new to iChat, click the iChat Dock icon to launch the app (or find it in your Applications folder), and follow the setup-dialog prompts, beginning with your name and AIM (AOL Instant Messenger) or .Mac account information. No account? No problem. Just press the Get An iChat Account button to sign up for a 60-day trial of Apple's .Mac service, which includes an iChat account that you can keep using after the trial period ends. We'll get into the customization later, but for now, open Preferences (iChat > Preferences); in the General pane, click the box labeled Show Status In Menu Bar to grace your Mac's menu bar with an always-there iChat status icon, from which you can access your Buddy list, change your online-status display, initiate chats with your Buddies, and more—whether you have iChat running or not.

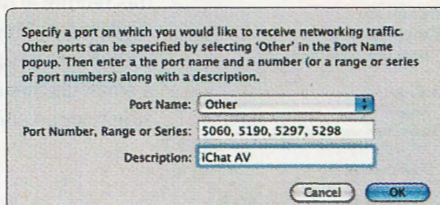


Adding the iChat Status Icon to your menu bar significantly lubricates your iChat experience.

2 Clear the Path

If you use OS X's firewall, launch System Preferences > Sharing and click on the Firewall tab; to enable messaging on your local network, check the box labeled iChat Bonjour (or iChat Rendezvous in OS 10.3.x) to open ports 5297 and 5298. If you also want to chat with friends outside of your local network, click the New button, select the Port Name pull-down menu, choose Other, go to the Port Number box, and type 5060, 5190. (Note that you can bypass the preset and enter all four numbers here; just separate each number with a comma and a space.) In the Description field, type something descriptive, like iChat.

Fixing a hardware router's firewall is trickier, but doable; start with your router's user manual (unless you already know how to configure the ports). All you need to do is open ports numbered 16384 through 16403 for UDP (User Datagram Protocol) and TCP/IP traffic. And if you plan to take the risk of killing your firewall (software- or hardware-based) to get around the ritualistic port dance, know this: We've heard anecdotes about how enabling the firewall and opening ports got iChat working when it wouldn't with *no* firewall enabled.



Poking port holes in the firewall is pretty painless.

3 Customize Conversations

To pretty-up your conversations, click on the Messages tab in iChat's Preferences. There, you can customize the background, text color, and font that appear in your word bubbles. Great, but how'd we get that custom background image in our iChat window? With a chat window open, select View > Set Chat Background from the menu bar, then navigate to any image on your hard drive. You can also change the window background by simply dragging an image file into iChat's main window.

You can further customize iChat with a handful of third-party add-ons. iChat Smileys 2.5.1 (free, www.lemacenligne.com), for example, adds an abundance of great-looking smileys, such as a scary ninja and an inexplicably cute cyclops. iChatStatus 1.2.1 (free, www.ittpoi.com/ichatstatus), allows you to quickly automate your status message; iChat 2.1 users can set their status to display the title of the song currently playing in iTunes, for example (a feature that's built into iChat 3).



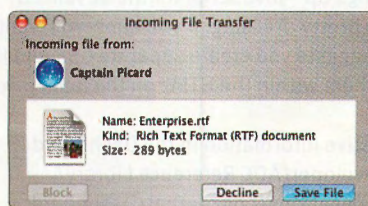
iChat can accommodate your fondness for pretty colors, fancy fonts, and smileys.

5 File Transfer à la iChat

Aside from your own illustrious thoughts, you can send just about any kind of file off on the IM highway by using one of several methods. The first: Select a Buddy from your Buddy List; then select Buddies > Send File from the menu bar, navigate to the file you want to send, and your buddy will receive a message asking if he or she would like to accept the transfer. Alternately, you can send a file by simply dragging it from the Finder to the text-entry box of a chat window or by dropping it directly over a buddy's name on the Buddy List.

Bonus: Select iChat > Services > Grab > Screen from the menu bar

while you have a chat window open to grab a screenshot and deposit it in iChat's text box.

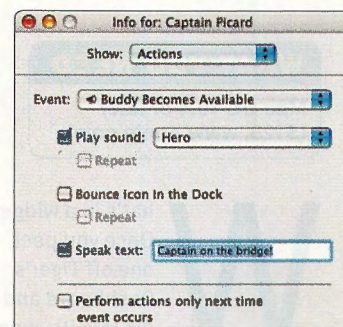


This file contains indisputable proof that Kirk is cooler than Picard.

4 Take Action, Buddy

iChat's best trick is Buddy Actions; this lets you set up and customize alerts to notify you when any of your buddies perform a particular action. For example, you can tell iChat to play a sound or speak a certain phrase when a Buddy logs in and shows up on your Buddy List. The advantage of this, of course, is that you don't have to constantly watch your Buddy List if you're looking for someone special—just set up the Action to watch for you. To set up Buddy Actions, select a buddy from the Buddy List and press Command-I, or select Buddies > Get Info from the menu bar. Select Actions from the drop-down menu and configure the alerts to your liking. Note that these are separate from the global alerts you can set (via iChat > Preferences > Alerts) to occur when any Buddy logs in. Slick!

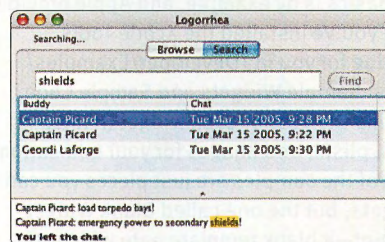
Why pay attention when you can borrow some of iChat's?



6 Log Your Life

Ever have that moment when you wished you could remember what that person told you about that thing at the place that what's-his-face mentioned? Yeah, we all do. Thanks to the miracle of chat logging, you can recall everything you—or anyone you've ever talked to—have ever said in an iChat conversation. To start saving this blackmail fodder, select iChat > Preferences from the menu bar, click the Messages tab, check the box labeled Automatically Save Chat Transcripts, and pick a destination folder in the resulting dialog. iChat will save all your chat sessions as separate iChat-readable files. On its own, iChat lacks any way to manage and search through the logs. For that, we turn to a program called Logorrhea (free, www.spiny.com/logorrhea). Its straightforward interface makes

it easy to search through all of your saved conversations.



logorrhea *n.*
1. Pathologically excessive (and often incoherent) talking.

COMMUNICATIUS INTERRUPTUS

As slick as iChat is, it's occasionally plagued with problems: random crashing, missing buddies, and generic AIM errors, for example. For the most part, simply relaunching iChat can solve such problems. A quicker fix is to use Command-L to quickly log out and back into the AIM server. But don't get carried away; too many quick login/logout cycles can cause the AIM servers to lock you out for about 15 minutes.

For help with specific problems, be sure to check out Apple's iChat support page, as well as the iChat discussion forums. Chances are, your iChat problem isn't unique and even has a simple solution.

- iChat Support: www.apple.com/support/ichat
- Apple Discussions (forums): <http://discussions.info.apple.com>

Dan Pourhadi spends more time talking to people on iChat than he does face to face. Way more.

Create a Dashboard Widget

TOUGH

by Niko Coucouvanis

WHAT YOU NEED

Mac OS 10.4 or later
(\$129, www.apple.com)

What's in a widget? Once you peel one off Tiger's Dashboard and dig into its .wdgt bundle, you'll see that a widget is actually a mini Web page. Just as a Web designer uses HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to jazz up Web pages, savvy widget wranglers can add dynamically updated information from other servers on the Internet; they can build elaborate mini-apps with embedded plug-ins that access local files,



Mac OS 10.4 is here—bring on the widgets!

applications, and even system-level resources.

If that scares or confuses you, then you missed the point: Anyone can make a basic widget with the examples, samples, and documentation that Apple provides

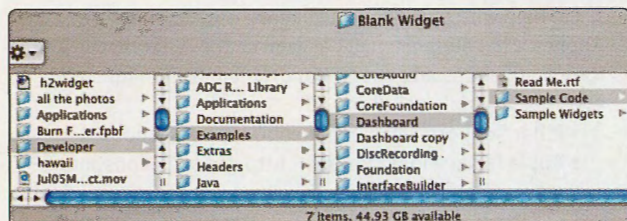
with Tiger. We'll show you where to find them, but before we get ahead of ourselves, make sure you've installed Mac OS 10.4 (Tiger); then install the Xcode Tools package that came on your Tiger installation disc.



with Tiger. We'll show you where to find them, but before we get ahead of ourselves, make sure you've installed Mac OS 10.4 (Tiger); then install the Xcode Tools package that came on your Tiger installation disc.

1 Learn by Example

The best way for aspiring developers to learn the widget-making basics is by example, and Apple provides examples aplenty. Since you've installed the Xcode Tools, those examples are waiting for you in /Developer/Examples/Dashboard in two folders: Sample Widgets and Sample Code, the latter of which contains the guts of each widget (HTML, CSS, and JavaScript files, plists, and images for your edification and repurposing). Some of the samples are just pieces you can build into your own widgets, but the one called Blank Widget is the perfect starting point—a blank template onto which you can glom your own widget. Make a copy of that entire folder for backup, and dig in.



It's cleverly hidden, but Apple provides a blank widget to get you started.

2 Widget Anatomy 101

All of a widget's basic information lives in an HTML file. Most widgets use some JavaScript and CSS (cascading style sheets) to spice things up—JavaScript for the advanced functionality, CSS for the pretty dressing. If you know you want to go that route, Apple suggests you create separate CSS and JS files and then reference them within the HTML on the main page (see screenshot).

Apple provides exhaustive information in the Dashboard Programming Guide (/Developer/ADC Reference Library/documentation/AppleApplications/Conceptual/Dashboard_Tutorial) and the Dashboard Reference (/Developer/ADC Reference Library/documentation/AppleApplications/Reference/Dashboard_Ref), but for now, help yourself to the code in the Blank Widget and other Sample Widget folders.

```
<!-- The style sheet should be kept in a separate file; it contains
the design for the widget -->
<style type="text/css">
  @import "BlankWidget.css";
</style>

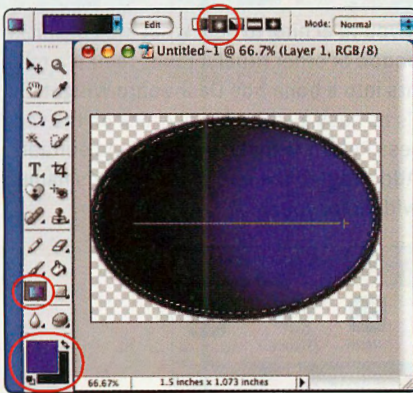
<!-- The JavaScript file contains the logic needed for this widget -->
<script type="text/javascript" src="BlankWidget.js" charset="utf-8"/>
```

Welcome to your widget—just add content!

3 Build a Background

Not only will a proper background keep your widget from blending into the Dashboard background, it will also enable your widget to work at all. Fire up Photoshop Elements or your image editor of choice, and create a new file big enough to fit your content (we're using Photoshop Elements, but you can easily adapt our steps for your image-editing app). To follow along as we create our mongo time-waster, enter a width of 450 and a height of 322 in the New File dialog. Select Transparent from the Background Contents menu.

To make a nice, soft-edged background like the ones Apple's widgets have, activate the Marquee tool, select the Circular tool from the Tool Options bar, and enter 5 in the Feathering field. Now click in the document window, drag to form an oval, and use the Paint Can tool to fill it in with whatever background color you desire. Next, select the Gradient tool, click near the center of the fill, and drag the tool toward the edge. If you don't like the results, choose Undo (Command-Z) and try again until you're happy. Choose File > Save or Command-S to save your background. In the Save dialog, select PNG from the Format pulldown. Name the file Default.png and save it in your Blank



Widget directory, replacing the Default.png that's already there. (You have a backup of the original Blank Widget directory, remember?)

Select the Radial Gradient tool (top) and pick your colors (bottom left).

5 Put the Gist in Your Plist

The info.plist (property list) file tells the Dashboard server important info about your widget, including the widget's name, key files, and sizing information. Since we're calling our widget Faux Fire instead of Blank Widget, we'll change the plist accordingly. Change any instance of Blank Widget to Faux Fire (or whatever you want to call your widget) as shown in the screenshot. Note that widgets appear in alphabetical order in the Dashboard bar; since you can't move them, name your widget accordingly if you want a certain placement on the bar.

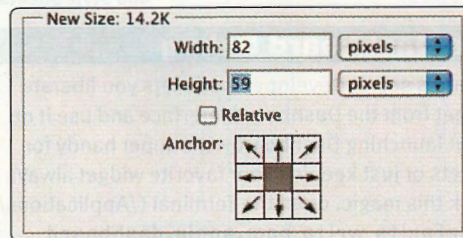
You may also want to add some new property keys to the widget's info.plist file (you'll find them in the Dashboard Reference document mentioned above); we had to include the AllowInternetPlugins key in order to make our Flash-based widget work.

Property List	Class	Value
Root	Dictionary	9 key/value pairs
AllowInternetPlugins	Boolean	✓ Yes
CFBundleDisplayName	String	No
CFBundleIdentifier	String	com.apple.widget.fauxfire
CFBundleName	String	Faux Fire

The Plist Editor makes short work of hacking your plist.

4 Mini-Size It

Your widget is also gonna need a sexy little icon to ride in the Dashboard's widget bar. The icon should probably match the widget's overall look, so we'll use the background we just made as a basis. Select Image > Resize > Image Size, and in the resulting dialog, check the Constrain Proportions box at the bottom. To make your icon fit perfectly in the Dashboard, make it an 82-by-82-pixel square; since our background is wider than it is tall, set the Width to 82 pixels and click OK—Elements will adjust the height to fit. Next, select Image > Resize > Canvas Size, change the Width and Height pull-down menus to Pixels, and then enter 82 in the Height box—this will square up your icon's invisible background so it lines up smartly with your other widget icons in the widget bar. Place the anchor in the middle to center your icon in its 82-pixel frame, and click OK. Select the Text tool and add a compelling (and short!) title so it's not just a blank blob in the Dashboard dash, then save the file in your widget directory as Icon.png.

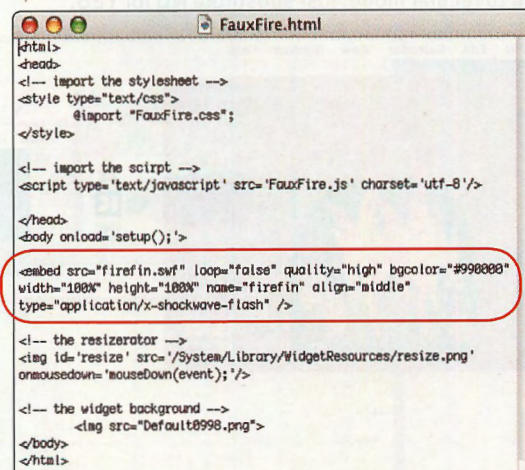


Set the anchor to center your image on the canvas so it looks correct on the Dashboard.

6 Hack Out the HTML

The main HTML file is the backbone of your widget, and that BlankWidget.html file is ready to serve you—just drop in a picture of your dog, a Flash file, a QuickTime movie, or whatever. Here's a little secret: Making a real (that is, useful) widget, such as an iTunes controller, requires some serious coding in order to link Web-friendly technologies such as JavaScript to machine-friendly Objective-C.

Rename your HTML file as you named it in info.plist and keep it open—we're about to show you how JavaScript and CSS can enhance your widget by adding the traditional corner resizer.



Most anything that Safari can handle will play in a widget; we embedded a Flash file into ours.

7 Crib the CSS and Jack the JavaScript

Blank Widget already contains starter JavaScript and CSS files, plus the hooks to pipe their magic into your widget's HTML file. Adding standard widget elements, such as the resize corner, is as simple as finding the appropriate snippets of JavaScript and CSS in the Dashboard Programming Guide (DPG) and working them into your widget's files. To get the code, find Resizing in the Dashboard Programming Guide's contents, click on it, and then click on Live Resizing. Cut and paste the appropriate snippets into your HTML, CSS, and JS files—the DPG's directions are crystal clear. Save the files with names to match your HTML file (in our example, FauxFire.css and FauxFire.js), and change the HTML file's @import and JavaScript source tags (see screenshot in step 2) to match.

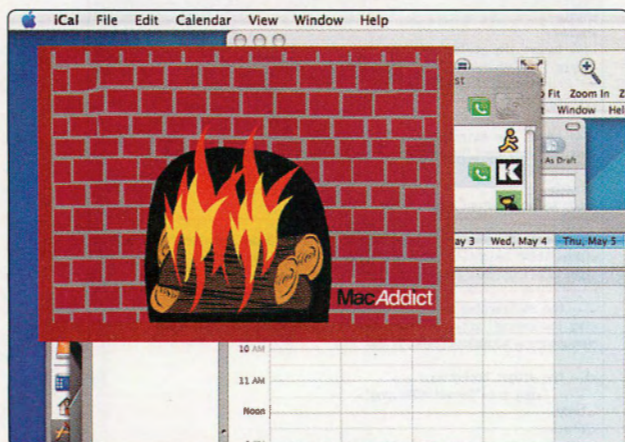
```
<html>
<head>
<!-- import the stylesheet -->
<style type="text/css">
  @import "FauxFire.css";
</style>

<!-- import the script -->
<script type="text/javascript" src="FauxFire.js" charset="utf-8"/>
```

Keep your HTML manageable by referencing external scripts and style sheets.

9 Do the Dashboard Debug

Dashboard's secret Developer mode lets you liberate any widget from the Dashboard interface and use it on your Mac without launching Dashboard—it's super handy for debugging widgets or just keeping your favorite widget always visible. To unlock this magic, open the Terminal (/Applications/Utilities), type **defaults write com.apple.dashboard devmode YES**, press Return, and close the Terminal. Now relaunch Dashboard by logging out (Apple Menu > Log Out *user name*) and logging back in. Double-click your widget to load it into Dashboard, then click on it and drag the mouse a little while pressing your Dashboard toggle key (F12 unless you changed it via System Preferences > Dashboard & Spotlight). This brings your widget to the foreground, where it floats above any Finder or application windows while the rest of the Dashboard and widgets stay hidden. As you modify your widget's source files, simply click on the widget and press Command-R to reload it and see the changes. Bonus: Check out the cool screen effect when it reloads. You can use the same Terminal command to return Dashboard to regular mode: just substitute **NO** for **YES**.



Our fireplace (find the Flash file in the Faux Fire bundle on the Disc) floats on the desktop thanks to Dashboard's Developer mode.

8 Suss It in Safari

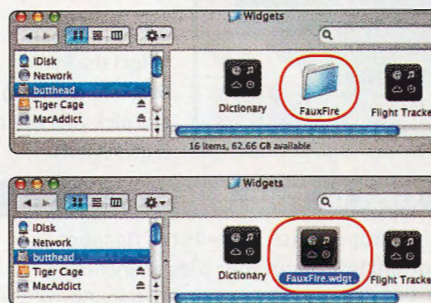
Since widgets are like little Web pages, it stands to reason that they'll run in Safari. And they do—for the most part. Widgets use a unique JavaScript element (the Widget Object, naturally) for manipulating widgets' windows in ways that Safari doesn't support, but otherwise, Safari is a handy way to preview your widget during development. With your widget bundle open (Control-click on a widget and select Show Package Contents), double-click on the FauxFire.html file (or whatever you named your widget) or drag it onto the Safari icon in the Dock. Now bask in your widget's glorious design—or note what needs fixing.



You can load widgets in Safari, but super-advanced ones such as the iTunes controller don't fully function in that environment.

10 Just Add .wdgt

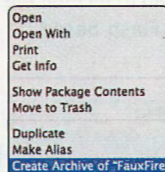
We know you're aching to hear what kind of chicken-blood voodoo or other ritual it takes to turn a folder full of Web documents into a bona fide Dashboard Widget. Sorry to disappoint, but it's as easy as this: Simply click on the widget folder's icon, and press Return to make the title field editable. Now for the magic: Add **.wdgt** to the end of the folder's name. Tiger turns it into a widget for you.



Four little letters package your widget into an application bundle.

11 Archive For Delivery

Getting your widget out to the Dashboarding masses is just as simple. Once you've packed it up into a bundle with the **.wdgt** extension, edit the name field again and delete that **.wdgt** you just added. Now Control-click your widget and select **Create Archive Of** from the Contextual Menu to wrap it in a Zip archive; put that Zip file on your Web site and spread the word. Now when someone downloads *yourwidget.zip* (and if they're using the Safari Web browser), the file will automatically unzip itself and deposit the widget in the user's (not the system's) **Widget** folder.



Zip it up tight for delivery and automatic installation.

Niko Coucouvanis was not harmed during the making of this how-to—just severely humbled.

Ease into Photoshop Elements

EASY

by Niko Coucouvanis

WHAT YOU NEED

Photoshop Elements (\$89.99 retail, \$79.99 download; www.adobe.com) or Photoshop CS (\$599, www.adobe.com)

Got Photoshop? Unless you're working in a professional printing or publishing environment, you probably don't need the advanced features in Photoshop proper. Read on as we show you the best tricks of its little brother, Photoshop Elements, including quick-and-easy photo fixing, powerful batch processing, and a crop of area-selection tools that'll have you

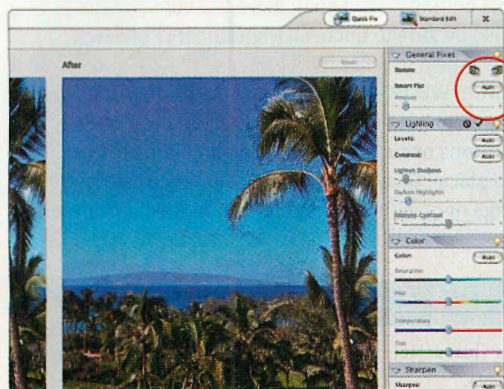


If you don't need channel masking or CMYK support to sate your Photoshop jones, Elements does just fine.

masking like a pro. And just because we like you, we'll also throw in some tips for speeding up Elements' performance.

1 Easy-Cheesy Photo Fixer

Elements' main flaw is one that it shares with its big, expensive sibling: an overwhelming array of features and functions. However, Adobe offers Elements users a user-friendly alternative with its Quick Fix interface. If you want to improve your images and you don't know white balance from white noise, just open your image in Elements and click the Quick Fix button at the right side of Elements' top menu bar. Pow! Elements' interface dumbs itself down to two simple palettes: The one on the left contains the Zoom, Hand, Crop, and Red-Eye Removal tools; the one on the right contains tabs for General Fixes, Lighting, Color, and Sharpen. Each section provides a slider you can tweak back and forth to get the exact amount of adjustment you want, but the Auto button, which applies Elements' default correction, provides good-enough results in most cases.



Sometimes the Smart Fix Auto button is all you need—the proof is in the before-and-after preview.

2 Six Ways to Select

You probably know the Lasso tool—it's been around forever. What you might not know is that you don't have to go through a tedious, wrist-wrecking exercise of precision edge tracing every time you want to use it. If you click and hold the Lasso's icon in the Tools palette, you'll reveal two smarter Lasso modes: the Magnetic Lasso and the Polygonal Lasso. To use the Magnetic Lasso, simply click once to start the selection, then follow the edge of what you're selecting with your cursor until you come full circle. The tool automatically finds points of contrast and anchors the selection according to your Edge Contrast (the degree of contrast that you consider an edge) and Frequency (how often points are added to the selection path) settings in the Tool Options bar. You can also add points at will by clicking the mouse. For selecting more straight-edged items, select the Polygonal Lasso—it draws a perfectly straight selection path until you click to indicate a corner, at which point you can draw straight out at any angle. To fine-tune the selection



area, choose the Selection Brush from the Tool palette and use the Tool Options bar to specify a shape and size for the brush; in the Mode pop-up, choose Selection or Mask to increase or decrease the selection area.

The Magnetic Lasso sniffs out the edge for you. Apply some feathering before slapping on the filters.

3 Fly Through Filter Effects

Though the Filter Gallery isn't new, we bet you're not using it—and you really should be. Use the selection tools described in step 2 to isolate part of an image you'd like to tweak, or choose **Select > All** (or **Command-A**) to select the entire image. Now select **Filter > Filter Gallery** to load Elements' (and Photoshop's) best-kept secret. Select whatever filter you desire from the center column, and the corresponding filter-specific controls load up in the right-side pane. There, you can adjust all of the filter's parameters, such as Detail and Smoothness for the Chrome filter. But wait, there's more! You can also use the Gallery to layer effect on top of effect: Just click the **New Layer** button at the bottom of the layer list before adding new effects. And don't forget to feather the edge of the selected area to smooth the transition around the filtered area; with the selection tool enabled, enter a value (up to 250 pixels) in the Tool Options bar's Feather box.

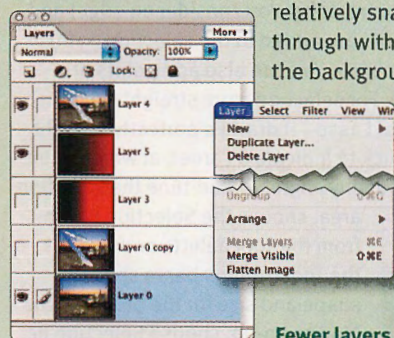


We gave our sky a combo Chrome and Photocopy look. We put each effect on its own layer, just in case we decide we hate it later.

SPEED IT UP, ALREADY!

Elements has a bad habit of falling into a near coma when you start pushing around too many pixels, especially when you're using large-size files with loads of layers. Here are a few tricks to speed things up.

LOSE SOME LAYERS Efficient layer hygiene keeps Elements relatively snappy, so when you're through with a layer, merge it with the background. To do this, turn



Fewer layers leads to less lag.

off other layers by clicking their eye icons, then select **Layer > Merge Visible**.

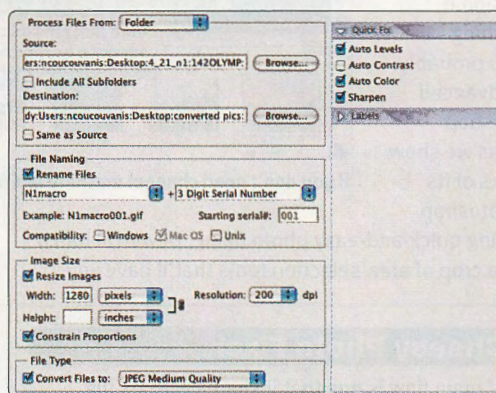
TIP: Easy Makeover



Elements' slick new Red-Eye Removal and Spot Healing tools are righteously easy to use—just select the tool, then click 'n' drag over the eyeball or blemish you want to fix. It's really that simple.

4 Batch Processing 101

Photoshop's recordable Actions rock. They let you reapply an identical process on multiple photos or even record multiple steps in sequence for use on similar photos, thus saving mucho time. Elements has a similar trick for basic fixes: **Process Multiple Files**. Say you've just filled a 1GB flash card with RAW-format images. You could preview them via Elements' **File Browser** (**File > Browse Folders**), but the **File Browser** gets bogged down easily. Instead, launch Elements and select **File > Process Multiple Files**; in the resulting dialog, navigate to the folder of images you want to process, specify where you want to save the processed output, and fill in the remaining boxes to set up the actions you want to perform. You can resize, rename, convert file types, apply the Quick Fix tools (Auto Levels, Auto Contrast, Auto Color, and Sharpen), and even label the photos with a watermark or caption. Elements warns you that it will overwrite your original files if you click the box to deposit processed files in the original source folder.



Elements makes batch processing much less painful.

FEED IT MORE MEMORY Open Photoshop Elements' **Preferences > Memory And Image Cache**, and adjust Elements' memory usage—we pegged ours to the maximum available RAM (because we're greedy).

BEAT THE FILE BROWSER INTO BEHAVING In Elements' **Preferences** dialog, select **File Browser** from the pull-down menu. If you're browsing a fat folder full of images, turn on **Allow Background Processing** to speed up the Browser—just be aware you'll pay the speed price while editing images. If snappy performance while editing is your goal, leave the background processing off; also be sure to uncheck **High Quality Previews**.

WRANGLE WAYWARD WINDOWS Don't you hate it when a window gets trapped behind the upper toolbars and you can't see the control buttons or even grab the title bar to drag the window back into place? Give it up; you're not going to free it that way. Set things right with **Window > Reset Palette Locations**.



Switching from Photoshop CS to Elements was a monumental moment for Niko Coucouvanis.

Snoop Your Home Network

TRICKY

by Alex Handy

WHAT YOU NEED

Mac OS 10.3 or later

Xcode Tools 1.2 or later
(free with free registration,
[http://developer.apple.com/
tools/macosxtools.html](http://developer.apple.com/tools/macosxtools.html))

X11 (free, [www.apple.com/
macosx/features/x11](http://www.apple.com/macosx/features/x11))

Fink 0.7.1 (free, [www.fink.
sourceforge.net](http://www.fink.sourceforge.net))

It's eleven o'clock: Do you know where your wireless network is? Hackers, crackers, and bandwidth-borrowing neighbors might be browsing your home wireless network right now! On the premise that knowledge is power, we'll empower you to monitor your network with Ethereal, a serious tool for network security.



TIME When the packet came in

SOURCE Where the packet came from

DESTINATION Packet's intended destination

PROTOCOL Packet's transmission protocol

PACKET LIST All the info moving over your network shows up here.

XTERM Ethereal's own little command-line terminal

PACKET DETAILS Incomprehensible information about the selected packet

PACKET BYTES How the selected packet looks to your Mac

1 Gather the Goods

Ethereal is one of those free Unix apps we're always crowing about; as such, you'll need to lay some groundwork before you can use it. The first thing you'll need is Apple's developer tool kit, Xcode Tools. If you bought the retail version of OS 10.3 or 10.4, Xcode Tools came with it. Otherwise, download it from Apple's Developer Connection Web site (<http://connect.apple.com>). After registering (for free) as a member, proceed to the download page and get the latest version of Xcode. To install the package, double-click the Developer .mpkg file and follow the onscreen prompts. When you get to the Installation Type screen, press the Custom button, and check the box labeled X11 SDK in the resulting dialog.

Grab X11 (free, www.apple.com/macosx/features/x11) and Fink (on the Disc, or download from <http://fink.sourceforge.net>). Follow the included installation instructions, and restart your Mac.

2 Fire Up Fink and Get Ethereal

Now there's just one more installation, but Fink handles this one for you—you just need to be connected to the Internet. Launch Terminal (/Applications/Utilities) and type **fink install Ethereal** at the prompt. Read or ignore the quick bit of feedback that appears in the Terminal window. When the prompt asks if you want to continue, type Y for yes, press Return, then go grab a cheeseburger—this installation is gonna take a while.

Custom Install on "mindy"

Package Name	Action	Size
<input type="checkbox"/> Developer Tools Software	Disabled	0 bytes
<input type="checkbox"/> Mac OS X SDK	Disabled	0 bytes
<input type="checkbox"/> Developer Documentation	Disabled	0 bytes
<input type="checkbox"/> Developer Example Software	Disabled	0 bytes
<input type="checkbox"/> BSD SDK	Disabled	0 bytes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cross-Development		0 bytes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X11 SDK	Skip	0 bytes
<input type="checkbox"/> Java Application Servers Development	Skip	0 bytes
<input type="checkbox"/> CHUD Tools	Skip	0 bytes

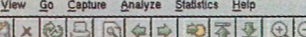
You need almost 700MB of software to complete this how-to, including the easily overlooked X11 SDK.

```
Last login: Wed Mar 23 15:03:19 on ttty2
Welcome to Darwin!
[geromino:~] ncourcouv% fink install ethereal
```

```
Information about 1740 packages read in 3 seconds.
The following package will be installed or updated:
ethereal
The following 10 additional packages will be installed:
glib glib-shlibs gtk+ gtk+-data gtk+-shlibs libpcap libpcap-shlibs pcre
pcre-bin pcre-shlibs
Do you want to continue? [Y/n]
```

Ethereal wants to install a bunch of oddly named items. Just nod politely and walk away.

3



Thanks to X11, this is the only command-line know-how you need to run Ethereum.

5

Capture Interface:

Limit each packet to bytes

☒ Capture packets in promiscuous mode

Filter:

Capture file(s)

☒ Use ring buffer Number of files

☐ Rotate capture file every second(s)

Display options

☒ Update list of packets in real time

☒ Automatic scrolling in live capture

Capture limits

Stop capture after packet(s) captured

Stop capture after kilobyte(s) captured

Stop capture after second(s)

Name resolution

☒ Enable MAC name resolution

☒ Enable network name resolution

☒ Enable transport name resolution

OK Cancel

It ain't pretty—but it's pretty powerful.

7

Protocol	Info
TCP	80
TCP	2654
TCP	5078
TCP	7500
TCP	7500
TCP	7500
HTTP	GET

Hmmm, some of those TCP packets look fishy...

4

Please select a network interface for information

Network Interface (en1) [v]

Interface Information

Hardware Address 00:0a:95:f1:9e:8e

IP Address(es) 10.15.6.55

Link Speed 11 Mb

Link Status Active

Vendor Apple

Model Wireless Network Adapter (802.11a)


6

Captured Frames		
Total	1315	(100.0%)
SCTP	0	(0.0%)
TCP	1301	(98.9%)
UDP	6	(0.5%)
ICMP	0	(0.0%)
ARP	8	(0.6%)
OSPF	0	(0.0%)
GRE	0	(0.0%)
NetBIOS	0	(0.0%)
IPX	0	(0.0%)
VINES	0	(0.0%)
Other	0	(0.0%)

Running 00:00:48

Stop

8

 Be glad that Alex Handy is a white-hat, good-guy hacker.

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• Worldwide Shipping
• No Surcharge on Credit Cards
• Government & School PO's Accepted

DIGITAL CAMERAS

<p>NIKON Coolpix 8800 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.0 MegaPixels • 10x Opt/4x Dig Zoom <p>\$639⁹⁹</p> <p>CP 4500 \$259.99 CP 4600 \$184.99 CP 4800 \$279.99 CP 5200 \$219.99 CP 5700 \$479.99 CP 8700 \$519.99 CP S1 \$319.99</p> <p>NIKON D70-S NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.1 MegaPixels • 2.0" LCD Screen <p>\$729⁹⁹</p> <p>D100 \$879.99 D70 \$669.99 D70 Kit \$829.99 D70-S Kit \$949.99</p> <p>OLYMPUS Eviolt E-300 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.0 Million Pixels • 1x Opt/1x Dig Zoom <p>\$599⁹⁹</p> <p>E-1 \$239.99 NEW! Stylus 500 \$269.99 NEW! Stylus 500 (R/W) \$204.99 NEW! Stylus 500 (D) \$279.99</p> <p>SONY DSC-F828 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.8" LCD Screen • 4x Dig/7x Opt. Zoom <p>\$649⁹⁹</p> <p>DSC-S40 \$179.99 DSC-S60 \$209.99 DSC-S90 \$259.99 DSC-F88 \$249.99</p> <p>SONY DSC-T7 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.1 MegaPixels • 2.5" LCD Screen <p>\$389⁹⁹</p> <p>DSC-L1 \$204.99 DSC-M1 \$399.99 DSC-T11 \$289.99 DSC-T33 \$299.99 DSC-T3 \$299.99 DSC-T1 \$399.99</p> <p>CANON PowerShot G6 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.1 MegaPixels • 4x Optical Zoom <p>\$469⁹⁹</p> <p>A95 \$249.99 A400 \$129.99 S1-IS \$279.99 S2-IS CALL A510 \$164.99 A520 \$229.99</p> <p>CASIO EX-Z55 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.0 MegaPixels • 2.7" LCD Screen <p>\$289⁹⁹</p> <p>EX-P505 \$364.99 EX-P700 \$389.99 EX-S100 \$199.99 EX-Z50 \$229.99 EX-Z55 \$269.99 EX-Z750 \$329.99 QVR-62 \$209.99</p> <p>MINOLTA Diimage A200 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.0 MegaPixels • 7x Optical Zoom <p>\$519⁹⁹</p> <p>E50 \$239.99 X31 \$149.99 X50 \$219.99 G600 \$204.99</p>	<p>NIKON Coolpix 8400 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.0 MegaPixels • 10 Opt/4x Dig Zoom <p>\$539⁹⁹</p> <p>NEW! Coolpix 5800 \$214.99 NEW! Coolpix 5900 \$239.99 NEW! Coolpix 7600 \$279.99 NEW! Coolpix 7900 \$309.99</p> <p>OLYMPUS C770 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.0 MegaPixels • 10x Optical Zoom <p>\$299⁹⁹</p> <p>C-765 \$269.99 D-425 \$124.99 D-5452 \$169.99 D-5952 \$199.99 D-6302 \$249.99 Irobe 300 \$279.99 Irobe 500 \$279.99</p> <p>PENTAX *IST-DS NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.1 MegaPixels CCD • 2.0" LCD Screen <p>\$599⁹⁹</p> <p>*IST-D \$849.99 OPT X \$269.99</p> <p>SONY Mavica CD-500 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.0 MegaPixels • 2.5" LCD Screen <p>\$469⁹⁹</p> <p>CD-350 \$329.99</p> <p>CANON DIGITAL REBEL XT KIT NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.8.03 Megapixel CCD • 1.8" LCD Screen <p>\$789⁹⁹</p> <p>Rebel Digital XT \$709.99 Rebel Digital \$529.99 Rebel Digital Kit \$609.99 SD20 \$269.99</p> <p>CANON PowerShot S500 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.0 MegaPixels • 3x Optical Zoom <p>\$279⁹⁹</p> <p>SD200 \$219.99 SD300 \$284.99 SD400 \$319.99 SD500 \$394.99 S410 \$239.99 S60 \$319.99 S70 \$389.99 Pro 1 \$549.99</p> <p>FUJIFINEPIX S3 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12.3 Mega Pixels • 2.0" LCD <p>\$1549⁹⁹</p> <p>FP E500 \$184.99 FP E510 \$189.99 FP E550 \$259.99 FP S20 Pro \$449.99 FP S2 \$1149.99 FP Z1 \$299.99</p> <p>MINOLTA Diimage Z5 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.0 MegaPixels • 12x Optical Zoom <p>\$339⁹⁹</p> <p>Z2 \$249.99 Z3 \$289.99 Z10 \$174.99 Z20 \$229.99 NEW! Maxum 7 Digital \$1049.99</p>	<p>NIKON D2HS NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1 MegaPixels • 2.5" LCD Screen <p>\$2799⁹⁹</p> <p>D2X \$3649.99 D50 CALL D50 Kit 1 CALL D50 Kit 2 CALL</p> <p>OLYMPUS C-8080 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.0 MegaPixels • 5x Opt/3x Dig Zoom <p>\$599⁹⁹</p> <p>C-5500 \$259.99 C-702 \$389.99 C-60 \$244.99 C-7070 \$459.99 C-7000 \$439.99 C-7070 \$459.99</p> <p>PENTAX Optio WP NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.0 MegaPixel • 2.0" LCD Screen <p>\$244⁹⁹</p> <p>Optio X \$289.99 S5N \$259.99 S50 \$219.99 S91 \$239.99 SV \$319.99 7902 \$429.99 Ist Dig \$449.99 Ist OS \$569.99</p> <p>SONY DSC-P200 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.2 MegaPixels • 3x Optical Zoom <p>\$324⁹⁹</p> <p>DSC-P150 \$304.99 DSC-H1 CALL DSC-W1 \$259.99 DSC-W5 \$264.99 DSC-W7 \$349.99 DSC-V3 \$449.99</p> <p>CANON EOS 20D NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.2 MegaPixels • 1.8" LCD Screen <p>\$1099⁹⁹</p> <p>EOS 20D Kit \$1179.99 EOS 1D II \$3049.99 EOS 1DS II \$6399.99 EOS 1DS \$5099.99</p> <p>KODAK DX7590 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.4 MegaPixels • 10x Opt/3x Dig. Zoom <p>\$329⁹⁹</p> <p>DX-7630 \$249.99 EZShare 1 \$469.99 EZS C340 \$209.99 EZS Z700 \$249.99 EZS Z730 \$269.99 EZS Z750 \$309.99 DCS-Pro SLR C/N \$3049.99</p> <p>FUJIFINEPIX S5100 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.0 MegaPixels • 10x Optical Zoom <p>\$259⁹⁹</p> <p>FP 810 \$339.99 FP 3100 \$199.99 FP A345 \$159.99 FP A350 \$199.99 FP F10 \$289.99</p> <p>PANASONIC DMC-FZ20 (K/S) NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.0 MegaPixels • 12x Optical Zoom <p>\$429⁹⁹</p> <p>DMC-FX7 \$304.99 DMC-FZ4 \$329.99 DMC-FZ5 \$359.99 DMC-FZ15 \$344.99 DMC-LC80 \$189.99 DMC-LS1 \$199.99 DMC-LZ1 \$219.99 DMC-LZ2 \$249.99</p>
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DIGITAL VIDEO

<p>CANON GL-2 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20x Optical Zoom • 100x Digital Zoom • 2.5" LCD Screen <p>\$1599⁹⁹</p> <p>NEW! XL-2 \$3009.99 NEW! ZR-100 \$269.99 NEW! ZR-200 \$299.99 NEW! ZR-300 \$349.99 NEW! ZR-400 \$389.99</p> <p>JVC GZ-MC200 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.12 MegaPixels • 10x Optical Zoom • 200x Digital Zoom • 1.8" Color LCD <p>\$819⁹⁹</p> <p>NEW! GZ-MC100 \$669.99 NEW! GZ-MC500 CALL GR-DX77 \$354.99 GR-DX97 \$379.99 NEW! GY-HD10U CALL JY-HD10U \$2149.99 GY-DV300 \$1649.99 GY-DV500 \$3699.99</p> <p>SONY DCR-VX2100 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48x Digital Zoom • 12x Optical Zoom • 2.5" LCD Screen <p>\$1999⁹⁹</p> <p>Special! DSR-PDX10 \$1649.99 Special! DSR-PD170 \$2479.99 NEW! DCR-TRV280 \$264.99 NEW! DCR-TRV480 \$309.99 NEW! HDR-Z1 \$999.99</p> <p>SONY DCR-PC1000 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.8 MegaPixels • 2.7" LCD Screen <p>\$879⁹⁹</p> <p>NEW! DCR-PC55 \$579.99 DCR-PC109 \$509.99</p>	<p>CANON ELURA 90 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.33 MegaPixels • 20x Optical Zoom • 2.5" LCD Screen <p>\$489⁹⁹</p> <p>NEW! Elura 80 \$379.99 NEW! Elura 85 \$409.99</p> <p>JVC GR-DF550 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.33 MegaPixels • 2.5" Color LCD <p>\$359⁹⁹</p> <p>NEW! GR-D250 \$249.99 NEW! GR-D270 \$259.99 NEW! GR-D290 \$269.99 NEW! GR-D295 \$269.99 NEW! GR-DF430 \$309.99 NEW! GR-DF450 \$349.99 NEW! GR-X5 CALL</p> <p>SONY HDR-FX1 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12x Optical Zoom • 3.5" LCD Screen <p>\$2649⁹⁹</p> <p>Special! AG-DV2500 \$1409.99 AG-DVC200 \$3199.99 NEW! PV-GS16 \$339.99 NEW! PV-GS19 \$259.99 NEW! PV-GS31 \$319.99 NEW! PV-GS35 \$369.99 Special! PV-GS55 \$349.99 NEW! PV-GS65 \$449.99 NEW! PV-GS150 \$509.99 NEW! PV-GS400 \$949.99</p> <p>PANASONIC PV-GS250 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1 MegaPixels • 2.5" LCD Screen <p>\$649⁹⁹</p> <p>AG-DV2500 \$1409.99 AG-DVC200 \$3199.99 NEW! PV-GS16 \$339.99 NEW! PV-GS19 \$259.99 NEW! PV-GS31 \$319.99 NEW! PV-GS35 \$369.99 Special! PV-GS55 \$349.99 NEW! PV-GS65 \$449.99 NEW! PV-GS150 \$509.99 NEW! PV-GS400 \$949.99</p>	<p>CANON OPTURA 500 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.3 MegaPixels • 10x Optical Zoom • 200x Digital Zoom • 2.5" LCD Screen <p>\$709⁹⁹</p> <p>NEW! Optura 50 \$549.99 NEW! Optura 60 \$604.99 NEW! Optura 400 \$599.99 Optura XI \$809.99</p> <p>SONY DCR-HC1000 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12x Optical Zoom • 150x Digital Zoom • 2.5" LCD <p>\$1009⁹⁹</p> <p>NEW! DCR-HC21 \$339.99 NEW! DCR-HC32 \$399.99 NEW! DCR-HC42 \$449.99 NEW! DCR-HC90 \$669.99</p> <p>SONY DCR-DVD403 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.3 MegaPixels • 10x Optical Zoom • 2.7" LCD <p>\$689⁹⁹</p> <p>NEW! DCR-DVD7 \$529.99 NEW! DCR-DVD92 \$469.99 NEW! DCR-DVD103 \$509.99 NEW! DCR-DVD203 \$529.99 Special! DCR-DVD301 \$629.99</p> <p>PANASONIC AG-DVX100A NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-CCD Imaging • Super VHS • 12x Optical Zoom <p>\$2299⁹⁹</p> <p>AG-DVC7 \$869.99 Special! AG-DVC30 \$1599.99 NEW! AG-DVC60 \$1799.99 NEW! AG-HVX200 CALL NEW! AJ-HDX100 CALL Special! VD-RM50 \$499.99 NEW! VDR-M53 \$459.99 NEW! VDR-M54 \$469.99 NEW! VDR-M55 \$519.99 Special! VD-RM70 \$529.99 NEW! VDR-M75 \$549.99 NEW! VDR-M95 \$669.99</p>
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VIDEO PROJECTORS

<p>IN FOCUS X2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DLP • 1600 Max Ansi Lumens <p>\$839⁹⁹</p> <p>LP-120 \$1399.99 LP-70+ \$1299.99</p>	<p>EPSON Powerlite S1+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3x .5" LCD • Digital Zoom <p>\$849⁹⁹</p> <p>Powerlite 730-C \$1979.99 Powerlite 61-P \$1159.99 Powerlite 81-P \$1529.99</p>	<p>BENQ PB7210</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2200 Max Ansi Lumens • DLP <p>\$1509⁹⁹</p> <p>PB 6100 \$849.99 PB 7230 \$1699.99 PB 8220 \$1549.99</p>
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SCANNERS

<p>CANON FS4000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5888 x 4000 pixels • 4000 DPI Optical Resolution • USB <p>\$469⁹⁹</p>	<p>NIKON LS50 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Quality CCD Sensor • 4000 DPI Optical Resolution <p>\$489⁹⁹</p> <p>LS-40 \$409.99</p>	<p>NIKON Super Coolscan LS-5000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,000 dpi Optical Res. • 2x-linear CCD • Multiple film format <p>\$869⁹⁹ NEW!</p> <p>LS-8000 \$1909.99 LS-4000 \$899.99</p>
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TELEVISIONS

<p>JVC LT-32X585 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32" • HDTV • W-XGA LCD <p>\$2499⁹⁹</p> <p>PD-42WX64 \$3349.99 LT-26WX84 \$1599.99 HD-S2Z575 \$2399.99</p>	<p>PANASONIC TH-42PA20 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42" • HDTV <p>\$2099⁹⁹</p> <p>TH-42PX25 \$3599.99 TC-26LU10 \$1699.99 TH-50PX25U \$4699.99</p>	<p>SHARP LC-37HV4U NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37" • Aquos Liquid • TFT Active Matrix <p>\$3199⁹⁹</p> <p>LC-30HV4U \$1449.99 LC-20E1U \$849.99 LC-20B4U \$699.99</p>
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PRINTERS

<p>EPSON Stylus 2200P NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USB/Serial Port • PC or Mac • 6 Color Small Archival Links <p>\$539⁹⁹</p>	<p>EPSON Stylus 1280 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smudge Free Inks • PC or Mac <p>\$399⁹⁹</p> <p>Stylus 3000 \$1179.99</p>	<p>OLYMPUS P440 NEW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dye-Sublimation • 1.8" LCD • USB <p>\$379⁹⁹</p>
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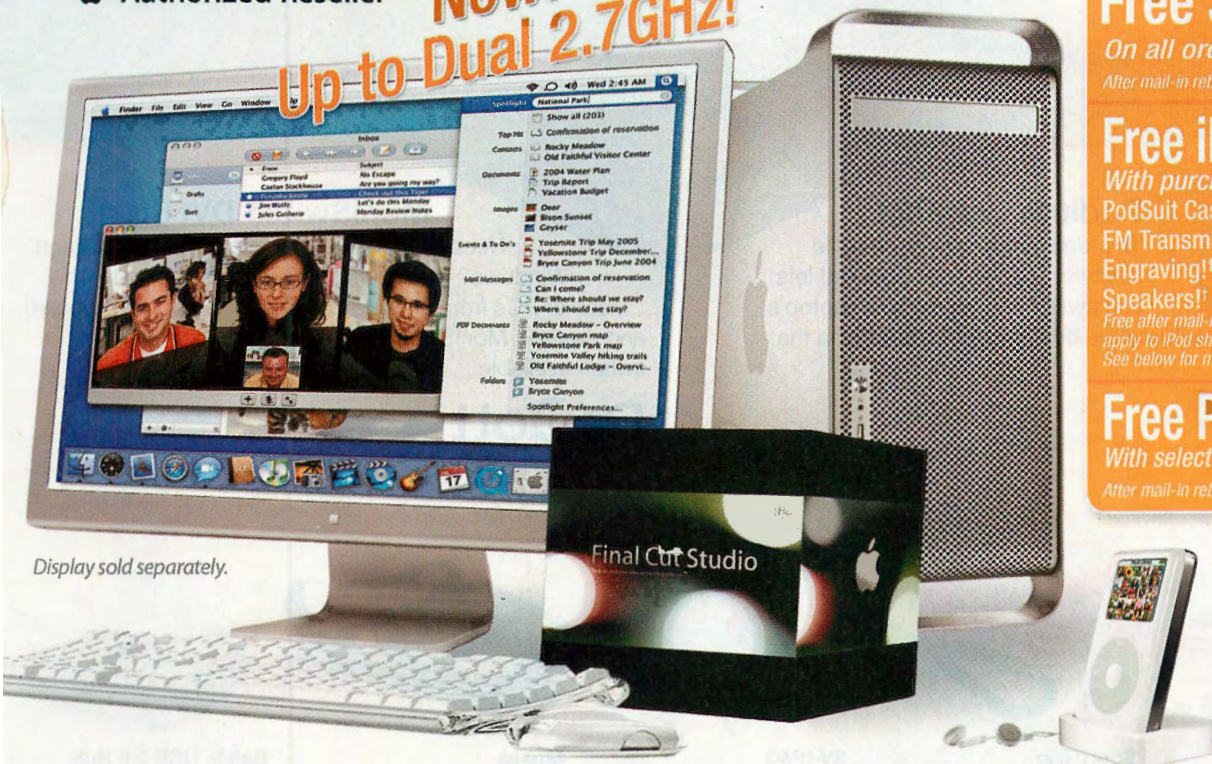
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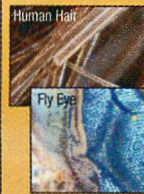
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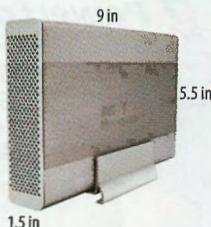
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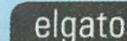
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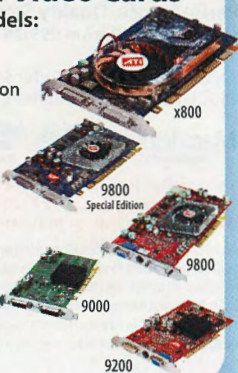
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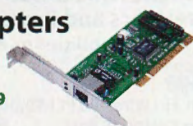


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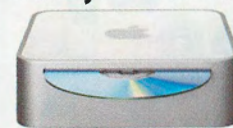


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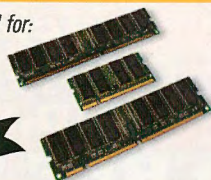
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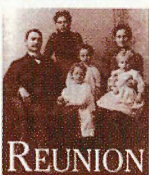
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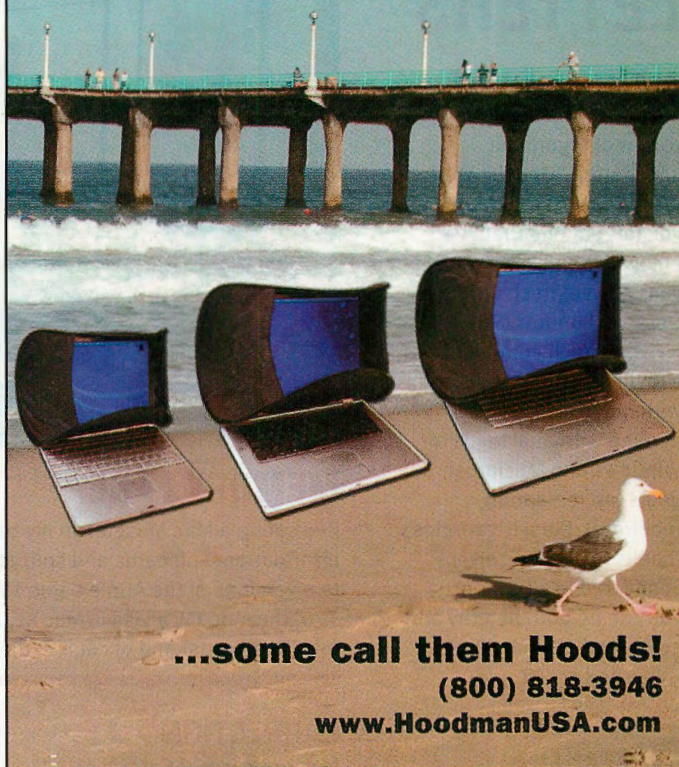
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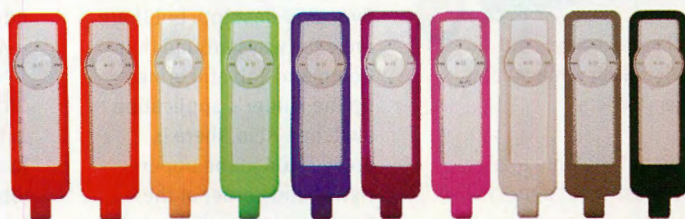
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LETTERS

ANOTHER TWIST

I enjoyed your comparative review of ergonomic keyboards ("Untwist Your Wrist," May/05, p26), but you left out one that I've enjoyed greatly for the past year: the Logitech Cordless Desktop Comfort (\$99.95, www.logitech.com). It offers a divided, tented keyboard with quiet keys, and it's marked with dual logos for Windows and Macintosh users (no remapping required!). Plus, it's wireless, thanks to an RF receiver connected to a USB port; you can be both healthy and geeky at the same time!

—Joseph Lockett



MEMORY LANE

I've set up a Mac Museum in my basement, complete with informational placards and spiffy table skirts. Among my cache are two versions of the Apple Cable TV Set-Top box, a Newton MessagePad 120, the Mac TV, a Lisa II/Mac XL, an eMate, the 20th Anniversary Mac (aka Spartacus) and of course, the original Mac 128K.—Gil Poulsen



They just don't make 'em like they used to.



This Logitech keyboard untwisted a few MacAddict readers' wrists.

You're not the only reader to suggest that Logitech keyboard. Others found that using a trackball helps a lot, too—especially if you're an iBook or PowerBook user strapped for the flat space you need for a mouse.

—Max

CORRECTION

In your review of Carrara 4 Pro (May/05, p40), you complain that it takes over your desktop, but there are easy ways around that. Command-Tab still brings up the Finder's application switcher. Also, there is an eye icon in the upper right-hand corner of the Carrara window that returns you to an unobstructed desktop with one click. You can also change Carrara preferences to open Carrara in a Finder window. Under the Preferences menu, choose

General, and uncheck Full Screen Mode. Exit Carrara, and next time you go in, Carrara will be in its own, adjustable Finder window.

—Mark Martino

SHAMELESS SYCOPHANCY

Just had to write to say great job on the MacAddict.com forums. I've been having trouble printing to a HP LaserJet through a Windows network (oh, the things we endure). Baffled beyond belief and highly frustrated, I tried Apple's Service &

Support site (www.apple.com/support) and had no luck there. Then I tried the MacAddict.com forums, and there it was—the exact solution to the problem I was having. (Thanks to Ninja David, who posted the solution.)—Peter Macfarlane
If our forums rock, that's only because of all the dedicated, smart, well-read, well-traveled, well-liked, technically savvy, beautiful (on the outside and inside) readers who bring them to life. Oh, is that a subscription card that just fell onto the floor?—Max

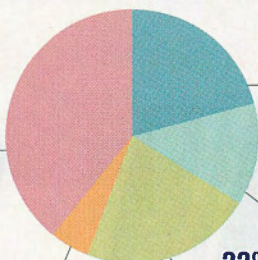
Survey Says

Here are the results of our March 2005 survey. Check out www.macaddict.com each month for a new online poll.

What should Apple do to combat overzealous rumorbloggers?

39% Get over it! All of us suckers will buy Apple stuff anyway.

5% Drop the "No comment on unreleased products" mandate.



21% Leave 'em alone, ya big bully!

13% Prosecute them to the full extent of the law.

22% Smother them with floods of false information.

701 respondents

FEELING GRAY

Your "iPods for Everyone!" article (*Get Info*, May/05, p10) proclaims that the wonderful color gray is "passé"! The horror! A good gray reflects the colors near it—most prominently pink and sometimes green. Gray may be passé in Colorfornia, but it's as cool as the other side of the pillow here on the Right Coast! It's the color

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LOG OUT  79

of urban camouflage; it's almost the color of the haze that drapes around the Blue Ridge Mountains; it's nearly the color of our silvery mountain lakes. Long live gray!—*William Burke*
So I guess what you're saying is that this is, indeed, a black-and-white issue.
—*Max*

THE TWO ERRORS

I noticed a couple mistakes in your May '05 issue. In "Rebel Swell" (*Get Info*, p13), you called the Canon EOS Digital Rebel XT "Nikon's latest digital SLR camera." Also, in "Put Linux on Your iPod," p60, you have a picture of a clickwheel iPod running Linux, which isn't possible—you even say so in the article. Some Photoshopping, perhaps?
—*Sam*

You caught us on both counts. No, Canon and Nikon have not joined forces, and yes, we abused the power of Photoshop with no regard for such matters as "consistency." Such a keen, scrutinous eye! Guess you have plenty of time on your hands now that you've

saved Middle-earth from Sauron.—*Max*

IS THIS THING ON?

In the Staff Video on your Apr/05 Disc, what was the make and model of the microphone that host Hugh Costa used? It seemed to work exceptionally well.
—*Don R. Hill*

The microphone in question is an AKG Acoustics C 1000 S (\$338, www.ake.com)



IMAGE COURTESY OF AKG ACOUSTICS

Secrets of the mystery mic revealed!

condenser mic; the crew fed it through a Beachtek DXA-4P XLR Adapter (\$199, www.beachtek.com), which is specifically designed for the Canon GL1 camera they used. If that sounds like a bit much, we've always liked the SM57 from Shure (\$158, www.shure.com)—*Max*

BUILDING A BETTER MOUSETRAP

Last year, my science teacher assigned us to make a car that travels with only the power of a single mousetrap. Classmates were making their cars out of milk cartons and foam, but I thought, "I'm into Macs, why not make mine out of clear plastic?" So I went to the local plastic store, ordered Lucite plastic wheels and a body, and put them together with the mousetrap and axels. I put the finishing touch on it with a genuine Apple logo sticker. It didn't win any races, but it sure looks cool!—*Drew Varkonyi*



Just be sure to keep this away from your Mac's mouse.

WIN!

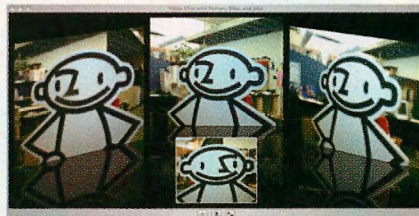


PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO

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This month, your innate creativity and cleverness can win you an Olympus Evolt E-300 (May/05, p41; \$999, www.olympusamerica.com). This streamlined, eight-megapixel digital SLR features a removable Zuiko Digital 14–45mm f/3.5–5.6 lens, easy-to-use controls, a plethora of shooting-mode presets, and a unique dust-cleaning system that makes switching lenses a worry-free affair. Want it? Just send us the best caption you can think of for the image below. Only one entry per contestant.

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Send email entries to: contest@macaddict.com with the subject: Olympus Contest (Don't forget to include your address information!)
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Deadline for entry: July 31, 2005.
Contest results will appear in our Nov/05 issue.

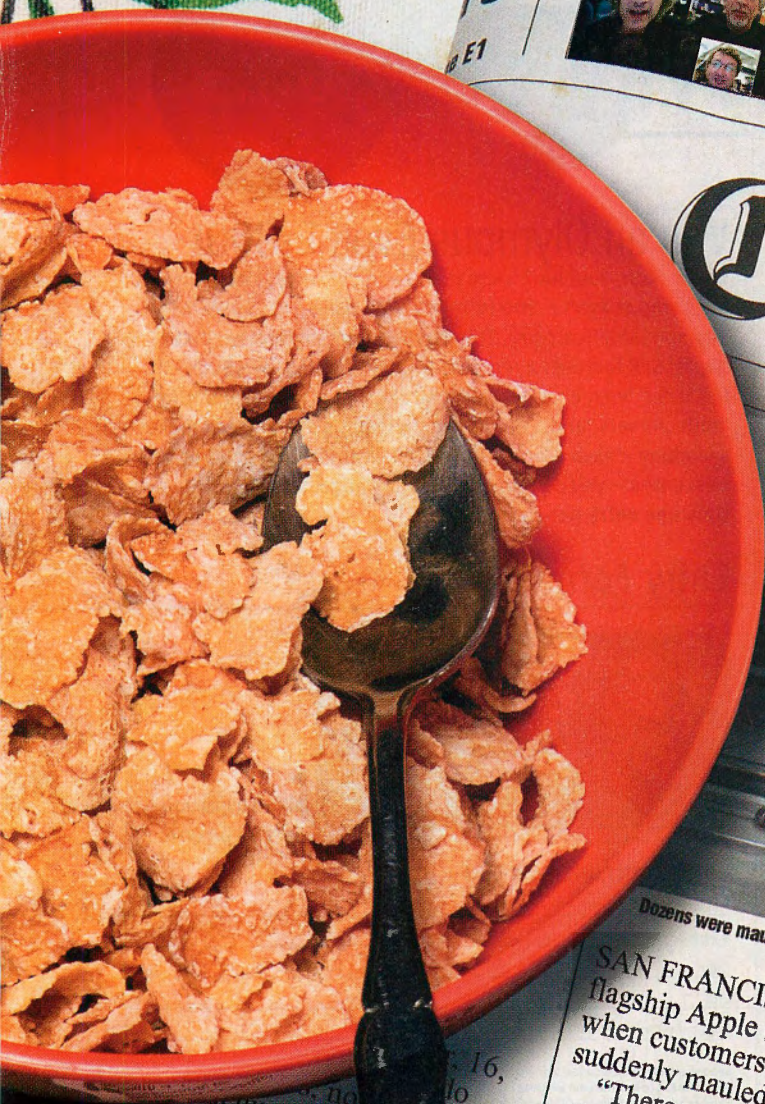
Contest Rules The judges will be MacAddict editors and will base their decision on 33 percent humor, 33 percent originality, and 33 percent creativity. All entries must be received no later than July 31, 2005, with the winner announced around November 2005. By entering this contest, you agree that Future Network USA may use your name, likeness, and Web site for promotional purposes without further payment. All prizes will be awarded, and no minimum number of entries is required. If two or more people enter identical winning captions, the entry received first will be awarded the contest prize. Prizes won by minors will be awarded to their parents or legal guardians. Future Network USA is not responsible for damages or expenses the winners might incur as a result of this contest or the receipt of a prize, and winners are responsible for income taxes based on the value of the prize received. A list of winners may also be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Future Network USA c/o MacAddict Contest, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005. This contest is limited to residents of the United States. No purchase necessary, void in Arizona, Maryland, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and where prohibited by law.

Winner!

Congratulations to Tim Lynch, whose ornithological musings won him a Formac Studio TVR media converter (\$299, www.formac.com).



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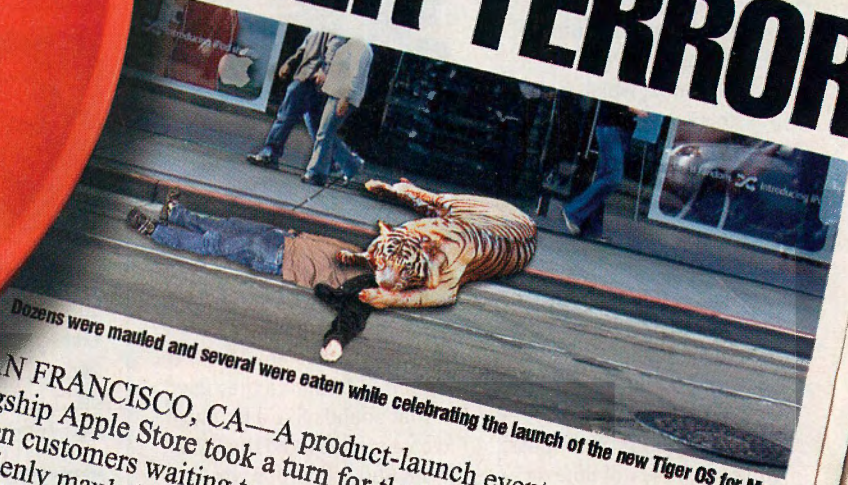


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TIGER TERROR



Dozens were mauled and several were eaten while celebrating the launch of the new Tiger OS for Mac.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—A product-launch event at San Francisco's flagship Apple Store took a turn for the bloody yesterday evening when customers waiting to purchase Apple's new Mac OS 10.4 were suddenly mauled by wild jungle cats.

"There was a wee bit of miscommunication between the event planners and Apple headquarters," an Apple spokesmodel told the Chronicle. "I suppose we should have been more specific about what we meant by a Tiger release party."

According to advertisements in local papers over the past two weeks, the Tiger Release Party was an event for fans of Apple's latest operating system. Instead, hundreds of launch-event attendees fled the scene in panic as Apple Store employees unlocked and opened a cage in the center of the store, releasing a trio of ravenous Bengal tigers into the unsuspecting crowd. According to the tigers' handler, the wild carnivores "hadn't been fed in, oh, a couple weeks or so."

"I was looking forward to the new features of Apple's newest OS," said Marcy Bystander, a self-confessed Mac addict who'd taken a day off to enjoy the launch event. "I was especially looking forward to Spotlight, which promises to streamline my searches by indexing every file on my computer, transparently and in the background. But now my son is dead!"

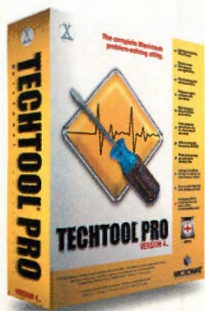
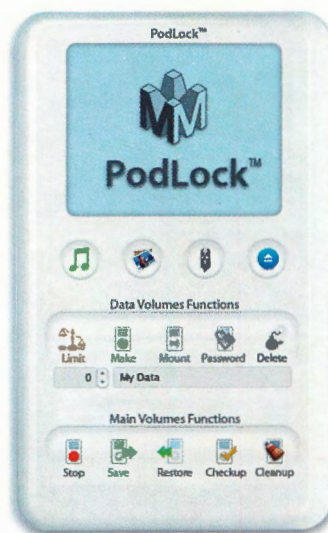
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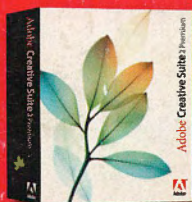
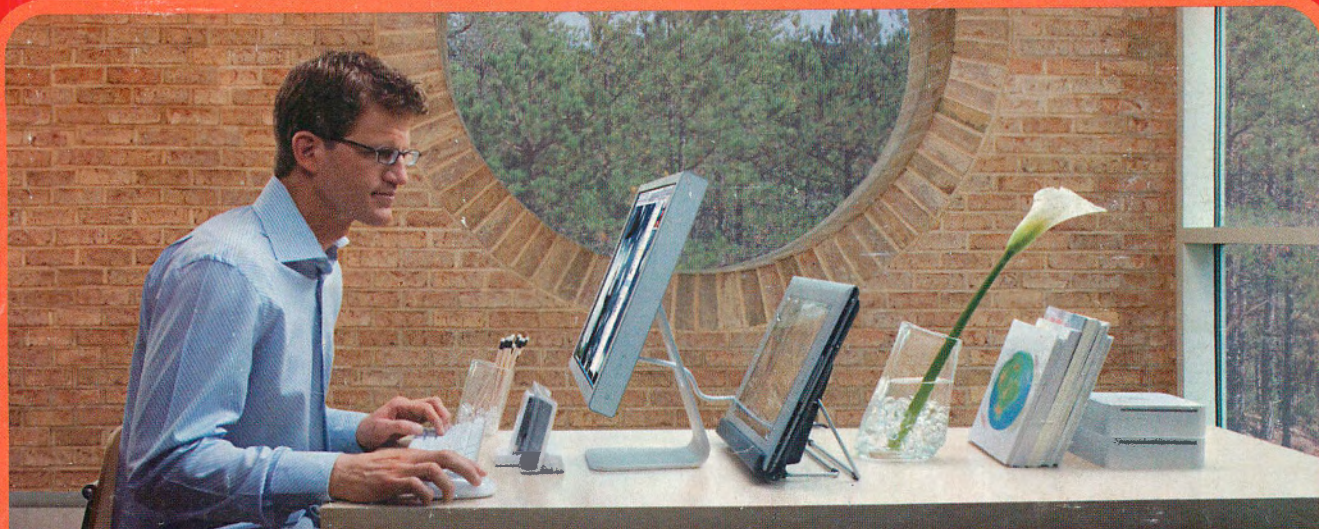
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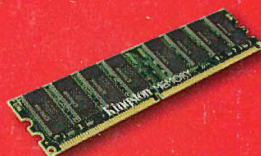


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